

Extreme Championship Wrestling

ECW

The Official Magazine

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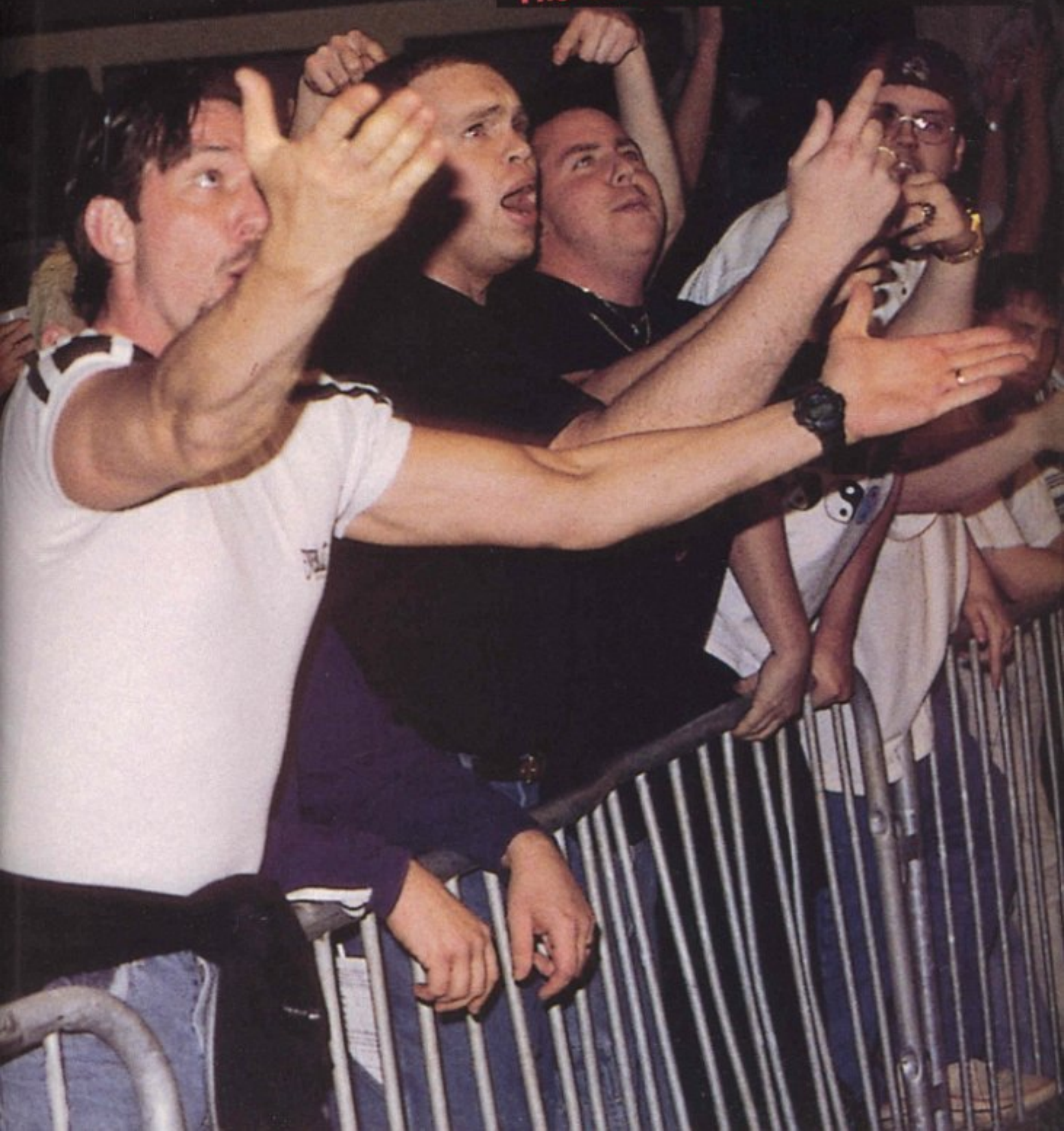



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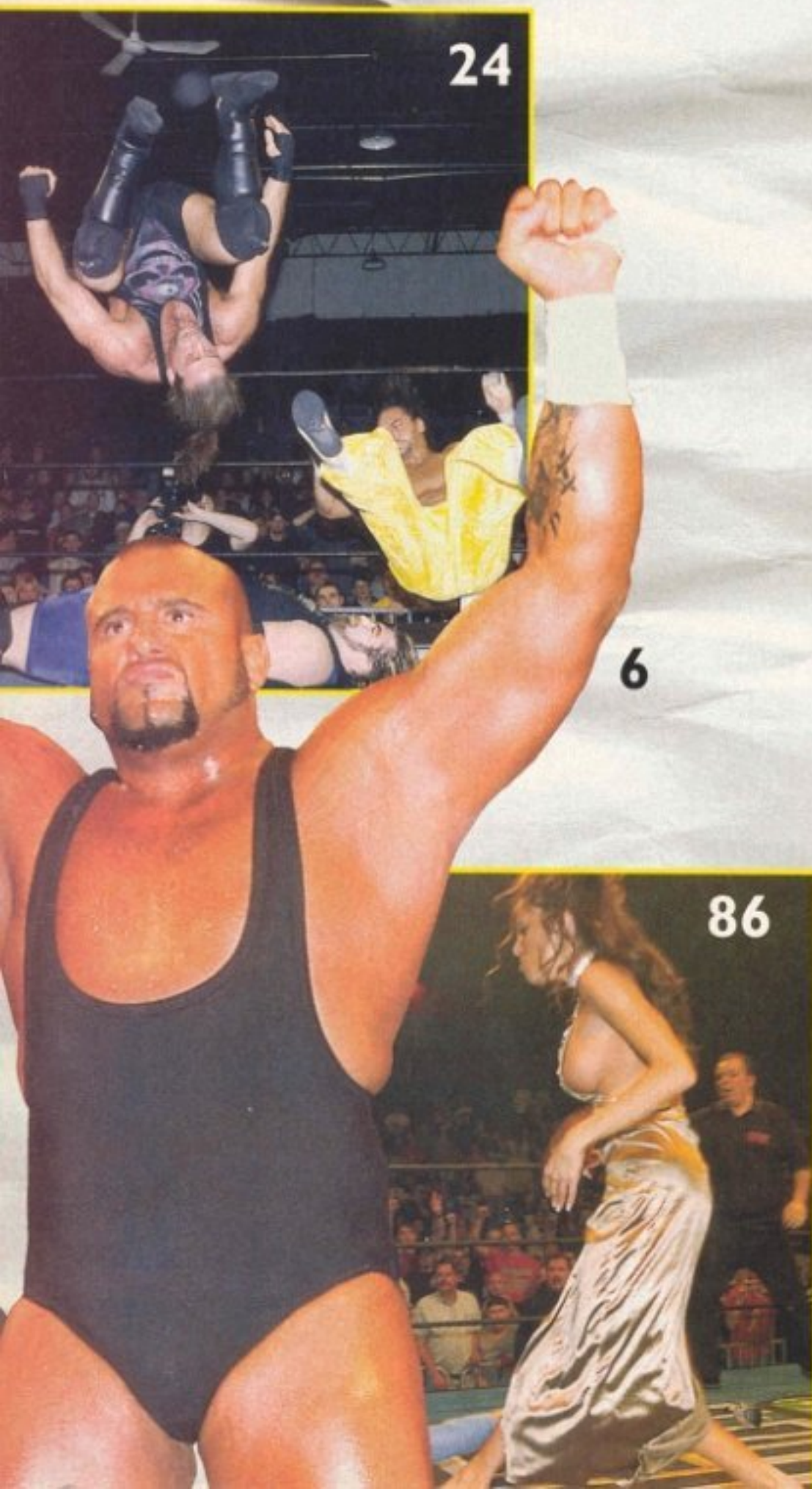
"Welcome to the
first ever
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Hope you enjoy
our hot coverage!!!
See you at
ring side."

Love,
Francine

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Extreme Championship Wrestling
ECW
The Official Magazine

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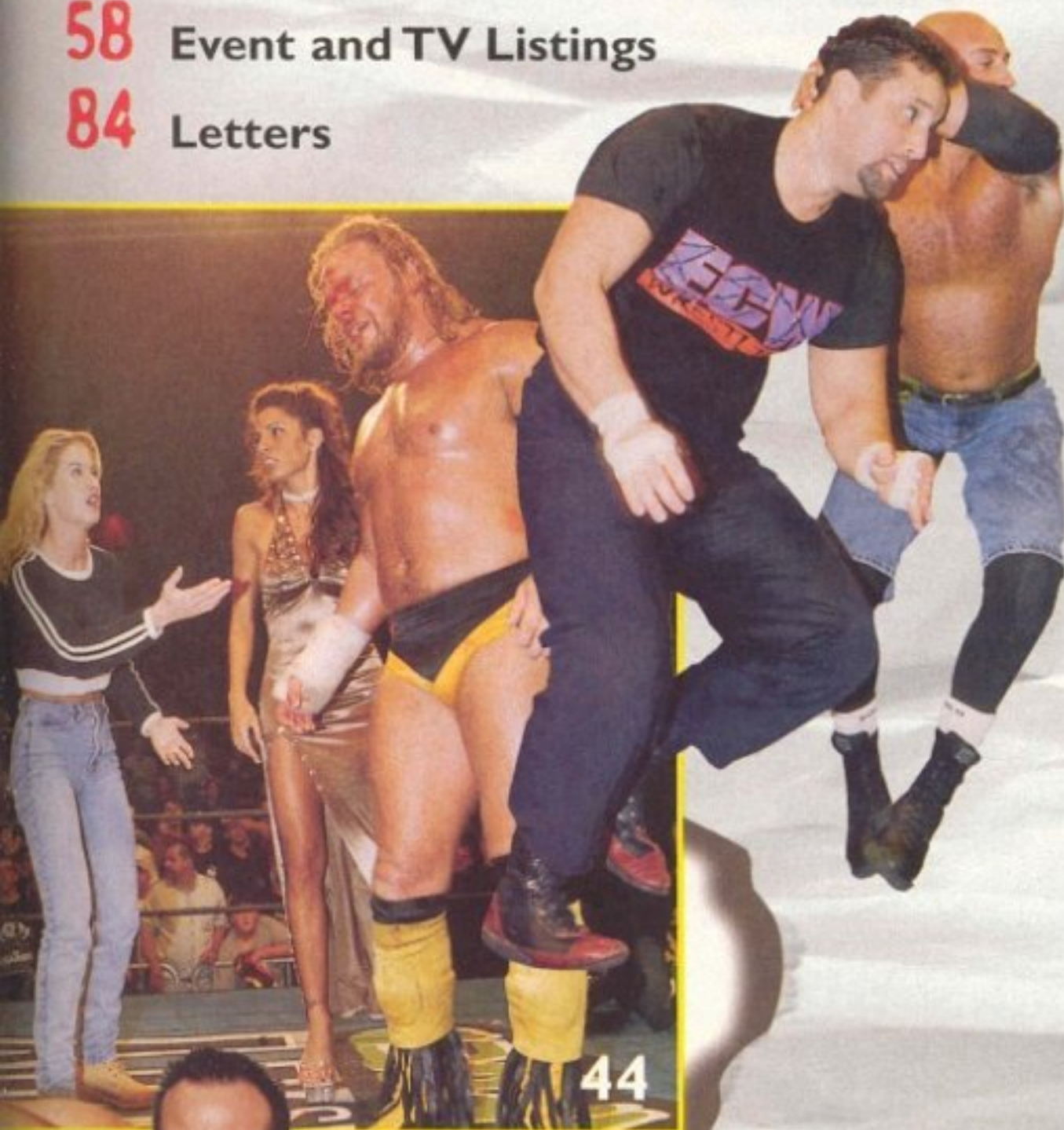
From dorky to dominant, the brothers Dudley have made their way from the streets of Dudleyville to the top of ECW.

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Extreme Championship Wrestling
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The Official Magazine

Extreme Championship Wrestling

Michael M. MeyersPublisher
Mike MorrisManaging Editor
Elliott FromManaging Art Director
Rebecca BruchProduction Assistant
Brad PerkinsEditorial Assistant

Contributors

Contributing Writers:

Blake Norton, Joseph Poillaro, Dave Conroy, Joey Styles,
S. Connor, Donny Laible, Shane Douglas

Contributing Photographers:

Fred Schwartz, George Tahinos, Donny Laible, Kaz Takahashi,
S. Connor

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Phone: (847) 444-4880 • Fax: (847) 444-1153

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H&S Media, Inc.

Harvey Wasserman Chief Executive Officer
Stephen D. Keen President
Michael M. Meyers Executive Vice President
Richard Pinder Vice President Controller
Bruce Jones Vice President of Sales & Circulation
Laura Grimaldi Director of Marketing & Promotions
Kathy Arthur Purchasing Coordinator
Kimberly Blair Production Coordinator
Jennifer Coyle Webmaster
Scott Ellis Web Designer
Rick Kieras Scanner Operator
Tim Towe Marketing Representative
David Hagman Newsstand Circulation Manager
Jessica Vivirito Circulation Assistant
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David Julian Advertising Sales Manager

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in styles

by Joey Styles

Joey Styles is the voice of ECW's weekly syndicated television program and live pay-per-view events.

Styles also manages www.ECWwrestling.com and the **ECW Hardcore Hotline** (900) 737-4ECW.

Welcome to the first edition of In Styles. I cannot begin to explain how excited I am about the new ECW Magazine. Special thanks to Mike Meyers, Mike Morris, Elliott From, and everyone at H&S Media for partnering with ECW on the new publication.

While every wrestling fan is familiar with the WWF and WCW, many are not familiar with ECW. Over the last five years, Paul Heyman's ECW has revolutionized the professional wrestling industry by introducing hardcore wrestling, "shock" wrestling or Howard Stern-type wrestling to the masses. In fact, we were the inspiration for the WWF's new attitude, right down to its new logo

and colors. Furthermore, WCW would never have decided to give its product a hardcore edge, including barbed wire, had ECW not led the way.

Until Turner Broadcasting purchased Jim Crockett

Promotions to create WCW, the WWF was the only national professional wrestling company in the United States. Vincent K.

McMahon ruled the wrestling world...and deserved to do so. Like it or not, he is

the one solely responsible for taking wrestling from regional promotions to national television and more importantly, pay-per-view.

However, when Eric Bischoff took the reigns of WCW, he used Ted Turner's money to save a dying company by purchasing globally-recognized superstars that McMahon created. Names like "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan, "Rowdy" Roddy Piper and "Macho Man" Randy Savage, which were the building blocks of the WWF, were now being offered more money by WCW.

Despite being told it would be a disaster, Bischoff created Monday Nitro and aired it head-to-head against Monday Night Raw. On the strength of name recognition, WCW began beating the WWF in the ratings. The WWF knew it had to reposition itself and did so by emulating ECW.

ECW, an outlaw wrestling promotion from Philadelphia, had been slowly building a cult following and piecing together a syndicated television network. On April 13, 1997, thanks to Paul Heyman's vision, against all odds and much to the chagrin of Vince McMahon and Eric Bischoff, ECW produced its first pay-per-view: Barely Legal.

It was ECW that first presented the following names to the American wrestling public: Dean Malenko, Eddy Guerro, Chris Benoit, Chris Jericho, Rey Mysterio Jr., Psicosis, Juventud Guerro, The Sandman, Raven, Perry Saturn, and Paul Heyman's most famous creation, The Public Enemy.

So when you are watching Raw and see a match for the Hardcore Championship or you see Raven and Hak (The Sandman) using barbed wire on Nitro, remember that it was ECW that started it all by revolutionizing the professional wrestling industry, despite the fact that everyone said it should not, could not and would not be done. **ecw**



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Tazmania

by S. Connor

Always a fighter, Taz discusses defending his title and what got him to the top



Date of Birth:
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5'10", 248 pounds.
Born in the Red
Hook section of
Brooklyn, N.Y.

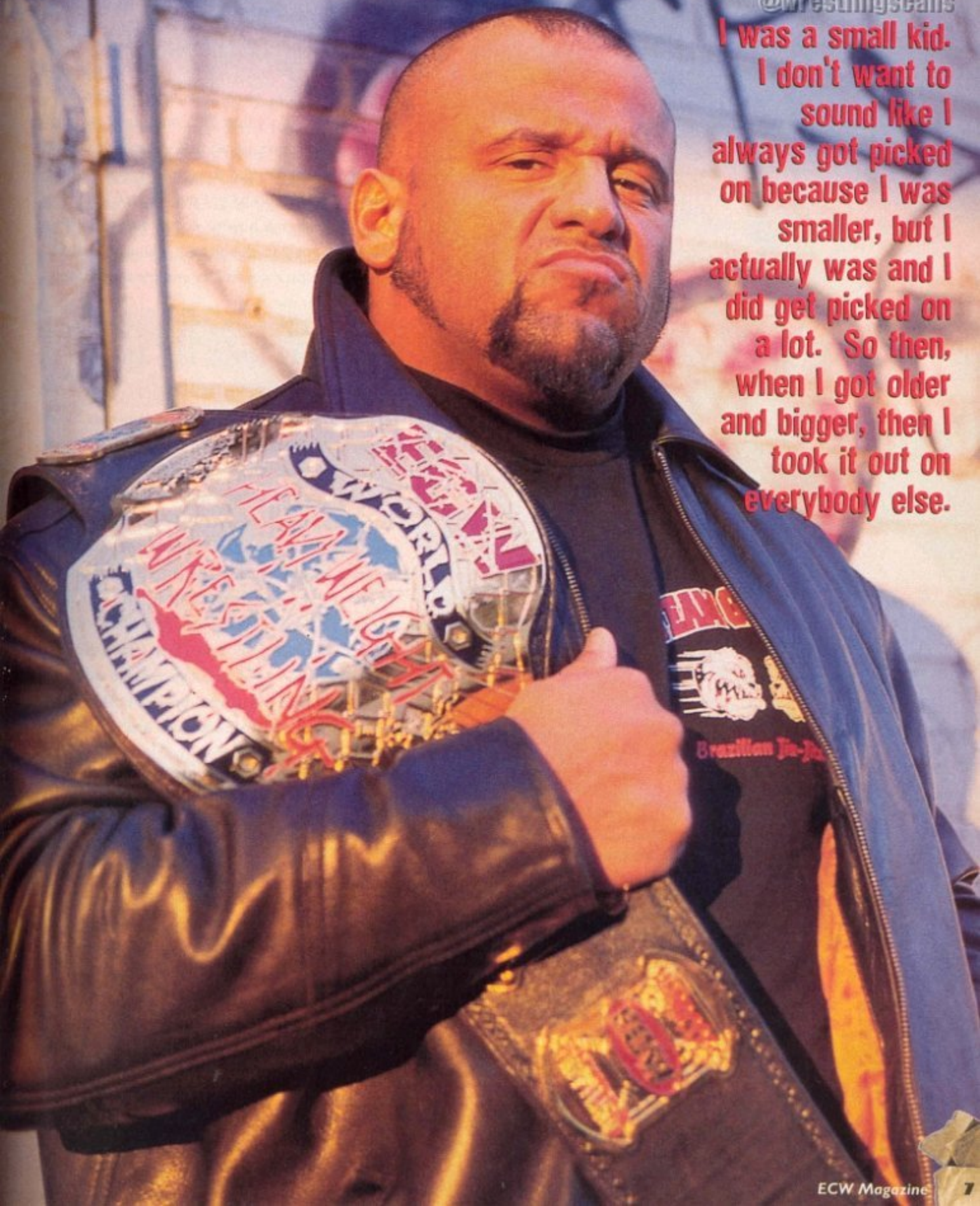
Q. Did you have an interest in Pro Wrestling?

I used to watch it when I was younger. I wasn't, like, a fanatic about it. I remember Bruno Sammartino and Super Star Billy Graham, and they were cool. I figured, hey, I could just do good and win, beat everyone and make a lot of money. I didn't know there was a lot more to it than that. Live and learn.

Like, a lot of guys today, they think they are going to make a quick buck and that is kind of what I thought it was. And then I got into it and I saw that it wasn't that way and I couldn't quit. Because I'm not a good quitter. I'm doing this thirteen years in June. It's like a drug, it's very addicting. You can't leave it, you know. You go through so much and you spend so much money when you are younger and you don't get paid but peanuts. But you still do it, you don't quit, you just keep plugging away.

@wrestlingseans

I was a small kid.
I don't want to
sound like I
always got picked
on because I was
smaller, but I
actually was and I
did get picked on
a lot. So then,
when I got older
and bigger, then I
took it out on
everybody else.



Q. What is your sports background?

I went to the dojo when I was nine years old and learned judo. As a young kid... because of my father's military background, he wanted me to have the discipline and the dedication to work hard and have the right work ethic. So he got me involved in it. It just stuck. It taught me how to dedicate myself and to achieve my goals to the highest goal I can. And if I fumble, I just pick the ball up and try again. That is what it taught me.

Q. At nine years old, wasn't it physically demanding?

Very much so. While all the other kids were out playing and having fun, I couldn't do all that. It kind of made me bitter at a young age.

I was just about the youngest one there except for an eleven year old who was there too. Not only was I younger than most of the students, I was smaller too. Not just because of my age, I was a small kid. I don't want to sound like I always got picked on because I was smaller, but I actually was and I did get picked on a lot. So then, when I got older and bigger, then I took it out on everybody else. It was tough. I had him (my father) up my butt, I just sucked it up and gave 150 percent and the rest is history.

Q. Looking back, do you appreciate what he did for you?

Definitely. Without a doubt. Wholeheartedly. He did not give me a lot in financial gains, because we grew up blue collar, but discipline and trying and not giving up and not going out and drinking and doing drugs. You know, I was too scared to do that. I would get my ass kicked. My old man was a Marine and he was miserable. But I'm proud of what he taught me and stuff like that and I think it makes me who I am today.



Q. Did he want you to go into the Marines?

No. He didn't because it had changed since he was there. He wanted me to go to college and achieve academically and athletically. But, I wanted to [go into the Marines], you know. You want to be like your father, I guess. But my mother didn't want me to and he didn't want me to either because it was a different Marine Corps, as he said, than it was when he was younger; politics and stuff. I kind of wished I could have. I think I would do OK there.

Q. Were you a serious child?

Yes, very much so. I didn't have a lot of friends, I had a couple of friends, maybe two or three. I wasn't one to go hang out and run around with my friends. That wasn't me. I was serious. I really had to put a lot of effort into my school work. Because I was in sports so much, I dedicated so much time to sports that I ran out of time academically. I really had to push myself to achieve. I wasn't a genius. I was definitely not an A student. I was like a B student, B-, C+, that type of kid. I'm going to try to raise my kids to be completely different. I was more street smart.

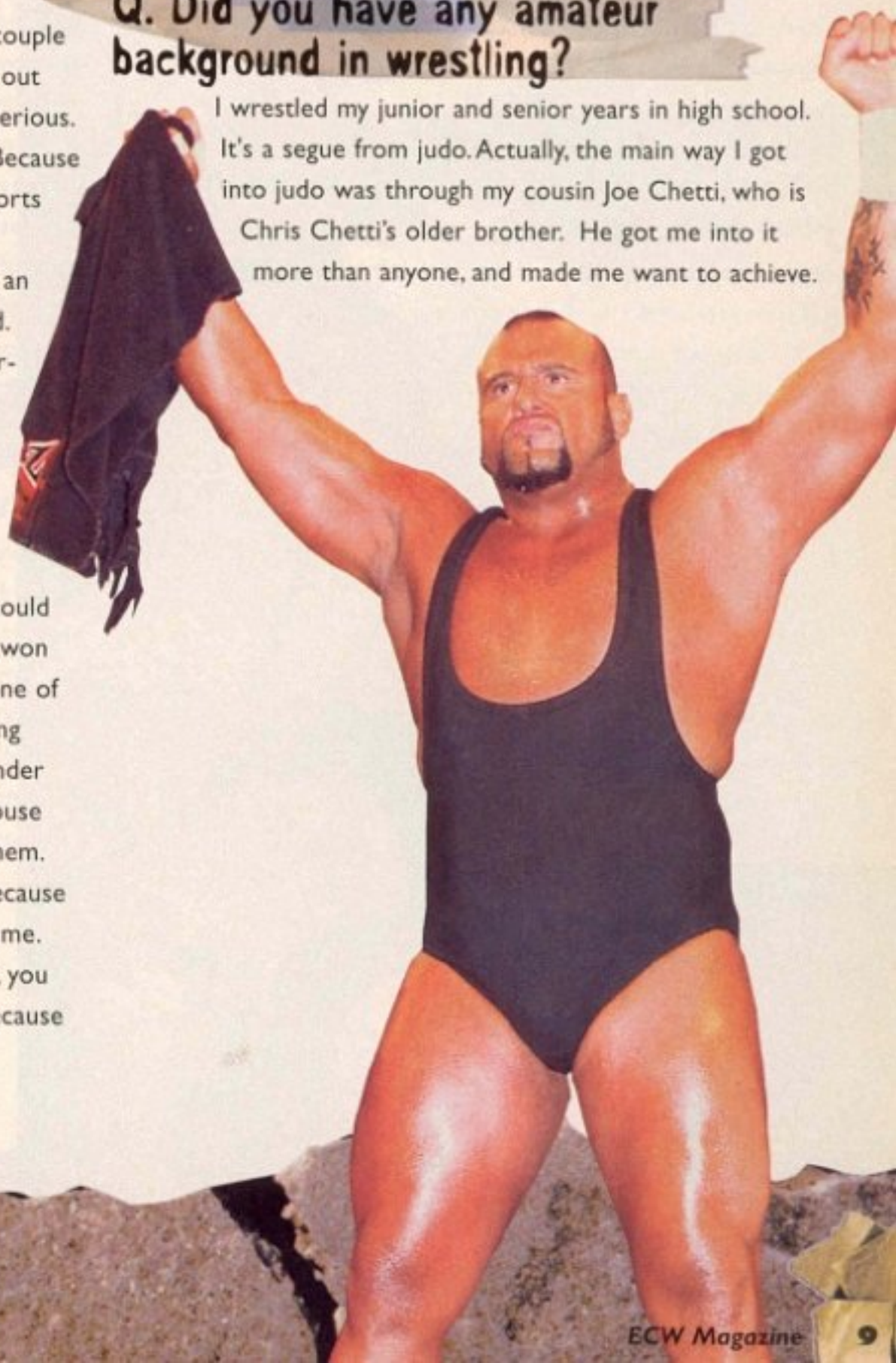
I got into a fight once when I was 13 years old with two kids that were 16 years old and they beat me up pretty bad. It was over a whiffle ball game (the plastic bat). We used to play in this guy's garage next door to our house, and we were playing for money, to see who could hit the ball the farthest. One thing led to another and I won and they didn't want to pay me. I started arguing with one of them and they roughed me up a bit. As they were walking away, I hit one of them in the back of the head with a cinder block then my older brother came running out of the house and he seen me and he kicked the crap out of both of them. But, you know, I was not a kid who would back down, because of my brother, my father, or one of my uncles, they'd kill me. So if I came home after I had lost a fight, it was like, OK, you lost a fight, now you are going to lose a fight at home because you lost a fight! I can't lose!

Q. Isn't that the way the Brazilian Ultimate Fighting family, the Gracies are? You'd better die in that ring before you throw in the towel?

Yeah, similar. I'll give the Gracies their due. My martial arts background isn't nowhere near what the Gracies family is. I've achieved a lot, but not like them. I mean, those guys dedicated their whole life to it. I dedicated a portion of mine. There's no money in it. (Ultimate Fighting style). You got to pay the bills you know what I'm saying?

Q. Did you have any amateur background in wrestling?

I wrestled my junior and senior years in high school. It's a segue from judo. Actually, the main way I got into judo was through my cousin Joe Chetti, who is Chris Chetti's older brother. He got me into it more than anyone, and made me want to achieve.



Q. In your immediate family, did you have a lot of role models?

My brother yes and no. My brother is not an athlete. He's a musician, actually. And he's very successful. He's a jazz artist, a keyboard player and has made many albums. So he and I are completely different in that sense. But he wasn't a partyer or a drug addict or a drunk, so in that sense he was a role model and he was eight years older than me. But Joey, (Joe Chetti) he was so good at everything. If he touched a football, he'd score a touchdown. If he got on a mat with a guy as an amateur wrestler, he'd pin him. If he put a gi on and got in a dojo as a judo player, he could've thrown someone and he'd pin him. Anything. He's just naturally so successful. It was like I had to compete against that.

Q. Was it frustrating to have to always be competing with someone in your own family?

Yeah, it was but it motivated me. I didn't get angry about it. I got motivated from it. I didn't have a lot of friends that I got help from. I wasn't really that type of guy. Still today, I'm not a really a big family man. Of course, with my wife, and I have a baby on the way, that is different but, like, with parents, or my brother and his wife and his children, I'm not really close with them. I talk to them on holidays and such,

but I'm always on the road so much. I don't want to say I'm the black sheep of the family, but I've always tried to do my own thing and I wasn't into all that rah rah with the family. I'm a loner — big time. Always, since I was a kid.

Q. How did you start training?

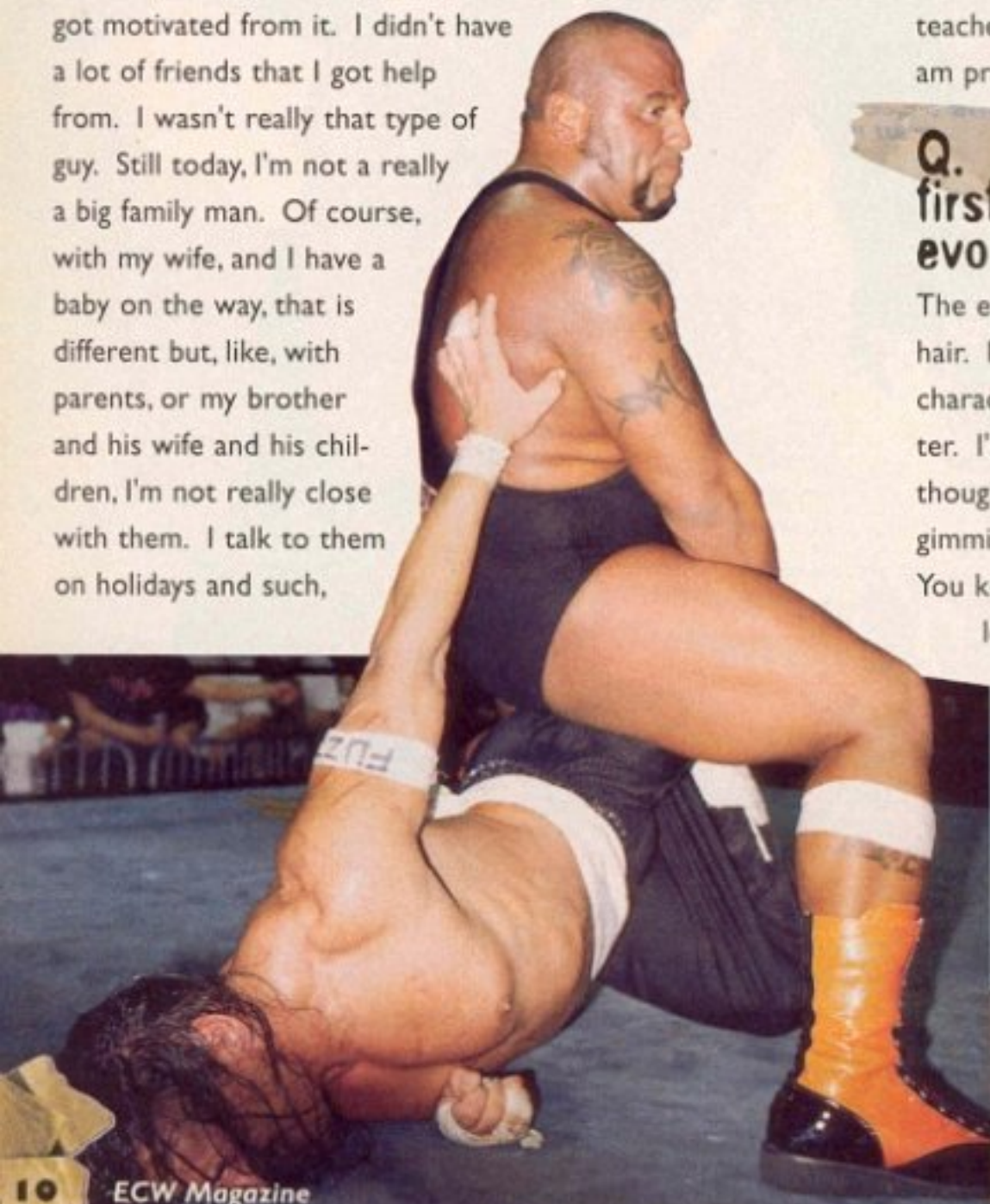
Johnny Rodz trained me in Brooklyn. For about the last seven years he has had a training school at Gleason's Gym. But when I started with Johnny it wasn't at Gleason's, it was at some small, beat up, little hole in the wall with no running water over some auto body shop in Brooklyn on Jerome Avenue.

The training was kind of easy to learn. Especially falling and stuff, because the way pro wrestlers fall, judo players fall the same way. That was easy. What was hard to learn as far as pro wrestling was the psychology of it; when to do something, when not to do something. Also, physically, I thought it would be easy compared to all the things I had done physically as a kid, but it was actually harder. I mean, the pounding night after night, the training, and Johnny Rodz was a very, very physical teacher. He taught me the old school way, the old style and I am proud of that. Because he's an old timer.

Q. The character of the Tazmaniac first debuted Oct. 1, 1993. How has it evolved to Taz?

The evolution to Taz started when I cut my hair. I hated that hair. I had long curly hair. That was the right look for that character (the Tazmaniac). I came up with that whole character. I'm not as tall as a lot of the guys that wrestle so I thought, let me use that to my advantage. I came up with the gimmick of like the Tasmanian Devil. I had a good run with it. You know, being barefoot and painting my face. People would look at me that didn't know me (that had never seen me wrestle) and they would laugh at the way I looked; I looked like a cartoon character. Once they saw me wrestle and knew I could actually wrestle then they knew it was just a gimmick. I don't want to say I'm not happy that I did it. I had to do it. Then I knew it was time to take it off and be me.

And that is what Taz is. I can just be me.



Tights, boots, tight cropped haircut. And just go for it. And just speak my mind on the microphone. That is what I want to be and that is me. It's a natural thing. As a wrestler, when you've been told you can be you, you can succeed nine out of ten times, it just comes to you. I'm fortunate enough that I have a boss that let me kill the gimmick that I had in the Tazmaniac. I was fortunate for that. But the Tazmaniac had to be over to a certain point before you kill the Tazmaniac and that is what Paul and I did. So we waited 'til it was over for a certain point. Because I said from the beginning I wanted to lose this look, I want to lose this name, I want to lose the tights, the hair. Paul said, no, no – wait, one year, two years, three years. And finally it was over enough and I was over as a wrestler.

People just knew it was a character. I'm not Spike. He is a little goofy. But he ain't that goofy. But since he is a hell of a wrestler, you could put Spike Dudley out there in tights and boots right now, he'll still be over the same way. And the Dudley Boys. That is a perfect example. They are rough tough heels and they kick ass. And if you put them in regular trunks and boots, they can go – they will still be over. I'd love to see those guys in trunks and boots. That would be hilarious.

Q. Do you think that Team Taz helped get the real Taz over?

Yes, I think so. Those guys were really students at my school. That was a real thing. I got the idea because you watch boxers with entourages and at the time that I had Team Taz, Ultimate Fight was real popular, so I didn't steal the idea, but I just kind of did the same thing. It was cool. Nobody was doing it. Nobody had entourages in pro wrestling. They all had my colors on with the hoods and it was kind of cool.

Q. And you no longer have Team Taz, it's just you...

They are around, but now they are wrestling. Half of them, like Roadkill, Danny Doring, [and] Chris Chetti.



The other four guys just didn't cut the mustard. They couldn't make it as wrestlers, they quit or got kicked out of the dojo. Team Taz taught guys like Roadkill, Doring and Chetti to be in front of all these thousands of people in the audience, the lights and the cameras. It just teaches them in a slow way how not to have stage fright.

Q. Discuss Taz - The Human Suplex Machine...

I do so many different variations of the suplexes, and I actually do them correctly. A lot of people try to steal certain suplexes I do and it's not the same. It's like if I tried to go out there and start going 'whoo' and start chopping guys like Ric Flair, then I wouldn't get over like Ric Flair because there's only one Ric Flair. The original's always the best. There can only be one Human Suplex Machine. And that's it.

Q. What about the Tazmission (A submission choke hold)?

I wanted to have a submission hold. Paul E. didn't want me to have one. So I showed him in the locker room the hold I wanted to use. He said, 'That looks like nothing.' I said, 'It is something.' So he said, 'Let me see it. Put it on me.' So I put it on him. He said, 'It doesn't feel like anything,' so I tightened it up a little bit and he almost passed out. I still to this day should just have choked him out right there. But it's a legitimate hold and you have to know how to apply it to make it work. I'm the only guy in ECW with a submission hold and I started pushing the whole tap out thing real hard and then, all of a sudden, everybody in WCW has a submission hold. And they are not just giving up. Now they are tapping out. I think a lot of that was copied from me and Ultimate Fight.

Q. What's your relationship with Paul Heyman?

We used to be really good friends. I've known him almost ten years. But then, you know, I've been working for him for five years

now and it's like, you can be best friends with a guy but once you start doing business together and you work for him or he works for you, whatever, things happen. We grew apart as really good friends. I still respect the hell out of him and I know he respects me. He's done a lot for me. Like when I was out with a broken neck for over eight and a half months, I was paid. He stood by me and my family when I was down. It was just like when his company was down, I stood by him. That is good karma. I believe that is the way it should be. We used to travel together, me, him and Dreamer.

But when they say we are going to leave for the town at two in the afternoon, I'm ready to go at 2:00 on the dot. Then they are leaving at 3:30, that drives me berserk. I hate traveling with undisciplined, not punctual people. So I'm hard to travel with. I usually travel by myself because I have my own agenda. So I got away from traveling with Paul because he kind of does his own thing. I guess when you are the boss you can do that.

Q. Describe the part you played in ECW's success.

I see it in my paycheck. I see the success. I don't want to say we've been lucky. Because for damn sure we haven't been lucky. Everybody has been against ECW. No one thought Paul Heyman could do what he's doing. Sometimes I don't think he can do what he's doing. Kevin Sullivan once told me, 'Paul E. has got a horseshoe up his ass.' Basically what that means is no matter what happens, he's going to come out smelling like a rose. Paul E. finds a way to shine. The company has been successful. I mean, Pay-Per-Views. Last year we did four and this year we're doing six. I'm shocked. I remember when we couldn't get to our first one. It seems like it was just yesterday. It happened so fast. I'm proud of the company.

In ECW, there's other guys, newer, stronger talent. Guys like Justin Credible, who I've never wrestled and I'd love to give him a title shot. Rob Van Dam, I've beat him a couple of different times when I was the TV Champ, but he's a different wrestler now. He's a big superstar, and I'd love to give Rob a chance at my belt. Shane Douglas. Anytime Shane Douglas and Sabu want a rematch with me, they are more than welcome. I think Sabu and I will have a rivalry until we both retire. It's been there from day one,

we wrestled each other Oct. 1, 1993, in Philadelphia and that was both of our debuts (in ECW).

Q. Describe the challenges of being ECW World Heavyweight Champion...

I'd like to stay there. I'm the type of guy though, once I achieve the goal, I'm like 'OK, now, what?' Now, I'm not saying I'm bored with the ECW World Heavyweight Belt, I love it, you know. I feel my workload has gotten 20 times harder. It took me five years to get the belt, and now I got to work my butt off to keep the belt, because there's so many people that are trying to get it from me. Like, I got Shane Douglas, who hates my guts because he feels I took his belt. Well, it's my belt

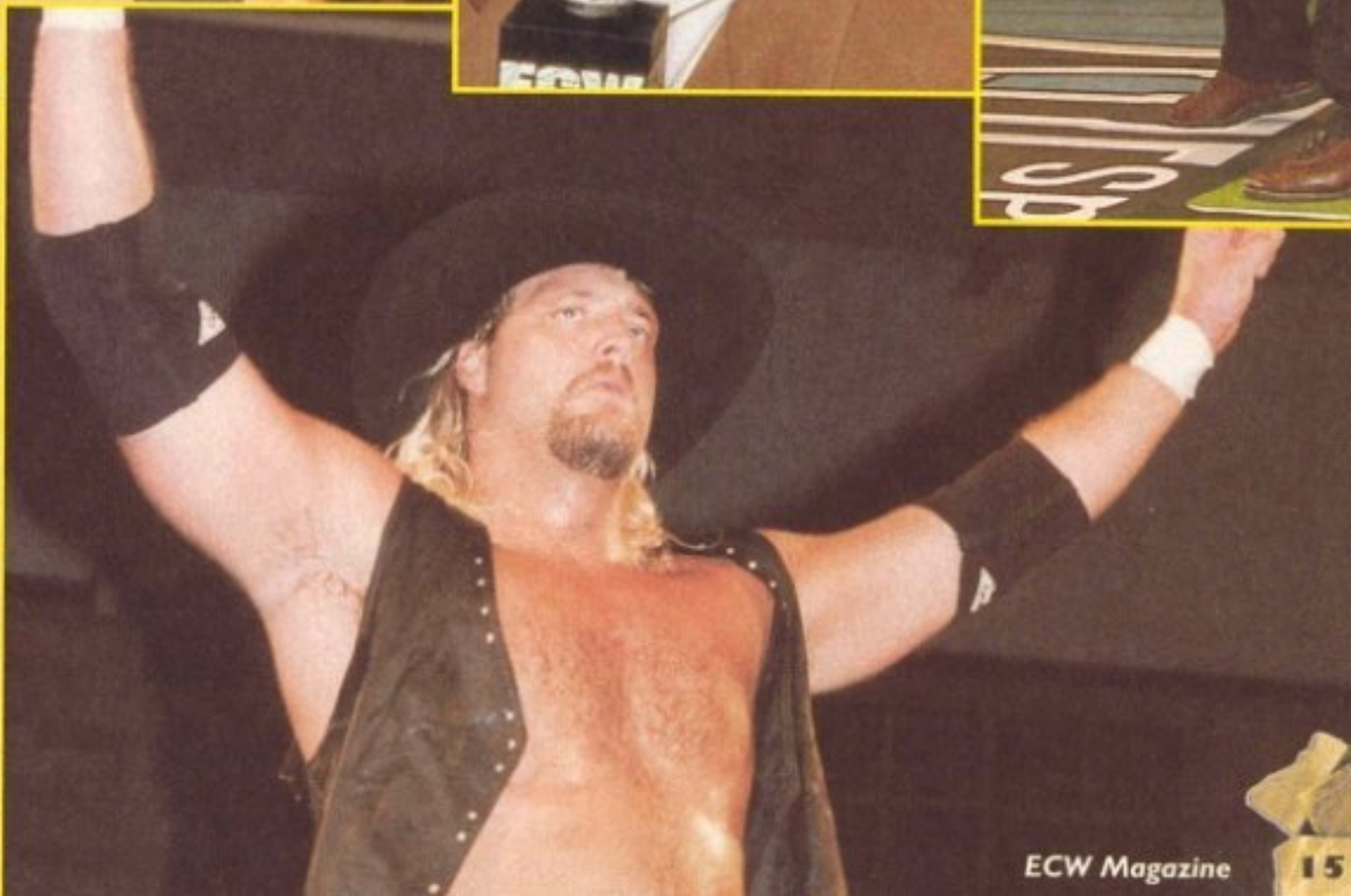
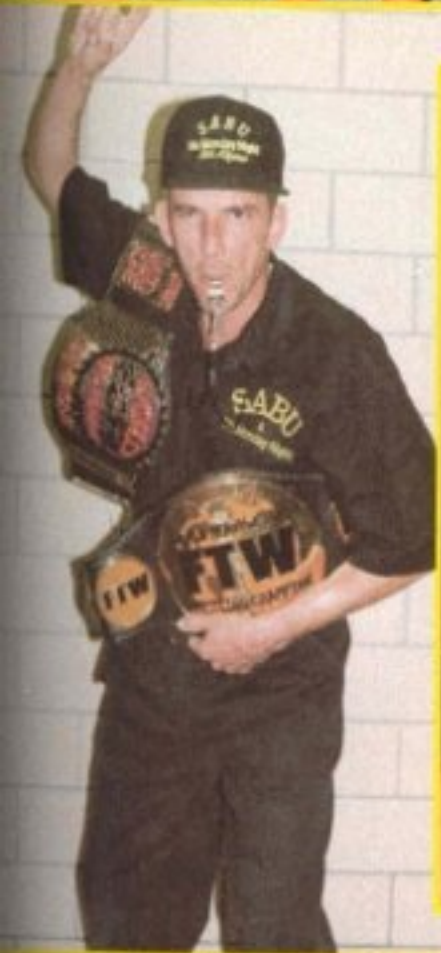
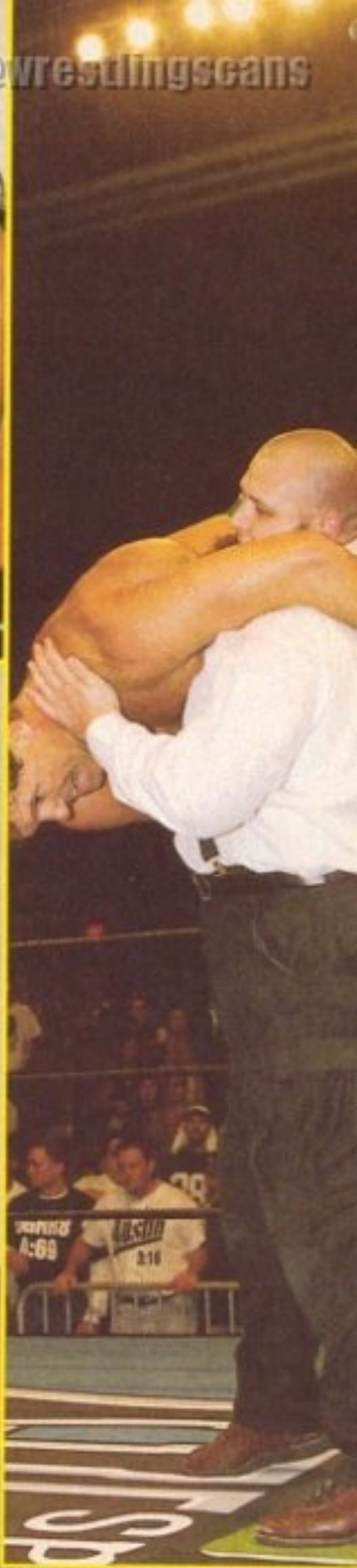
now, it ain't his no more. And Sabu will hate me till the day he dies, and I'll hate him. And Van Dam, his ego is so big he just wants to have all the belts. And he might be good enough to have all of them but he is going to have to beat me to have the main one. And I don't see that happening. And Justin Credible, he's a young lion, and the promotion is behind him. I'd love to give the young guys a chance, like the Road Killers and the Chris Chettis - not because I trained these guys but because they've earned it. Guys like the Dudley Boys, or Balls or Axl, I'll wrestle them, separately, I'll wrestle them. We got some good solid tag teams, you know. And those guys individually are good wrestlers. So we got a hell of a crew and there is a lot more for me to prove. **ecw**



HARDCORE ECW WRESTLING

A Look @ the
past, present
& future

By Joseph Pollaro



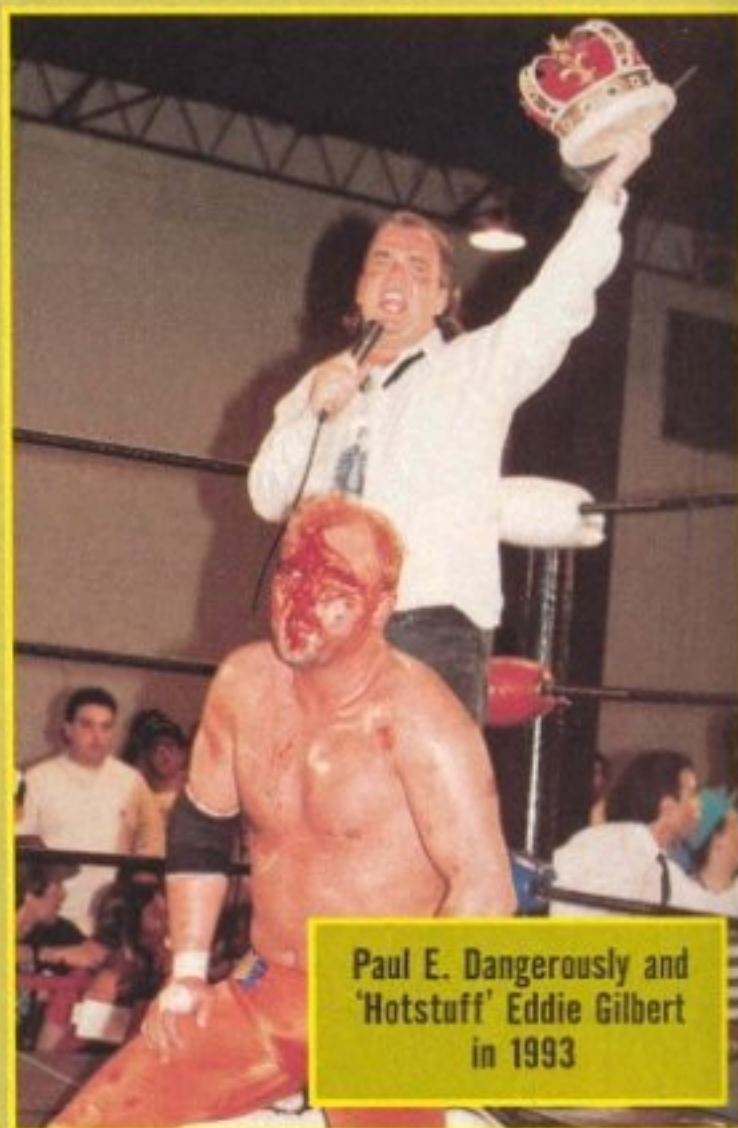
"ECW," "ECW," "ECW."

The name, the chant, conjures up different things to different people. But whether you are down with ECW or not, it can't be denied that what was once a small,

regional promotion based in Philadelphia has changed the course of wrestling as we know it today.

Today, ECW influences can be found everywhere as former ECW wrestlers are scattered throughout the WWF and WCW. With former ECW stars in both major federations, both the WWF and WCW have blatantly "borrowed" many of the moves made famous by the ECW performers. Many credit ECW with introducing wild, death-defying moves, but this is not its only claim to fame. The organization is rarely, if ever, given credit for introducing

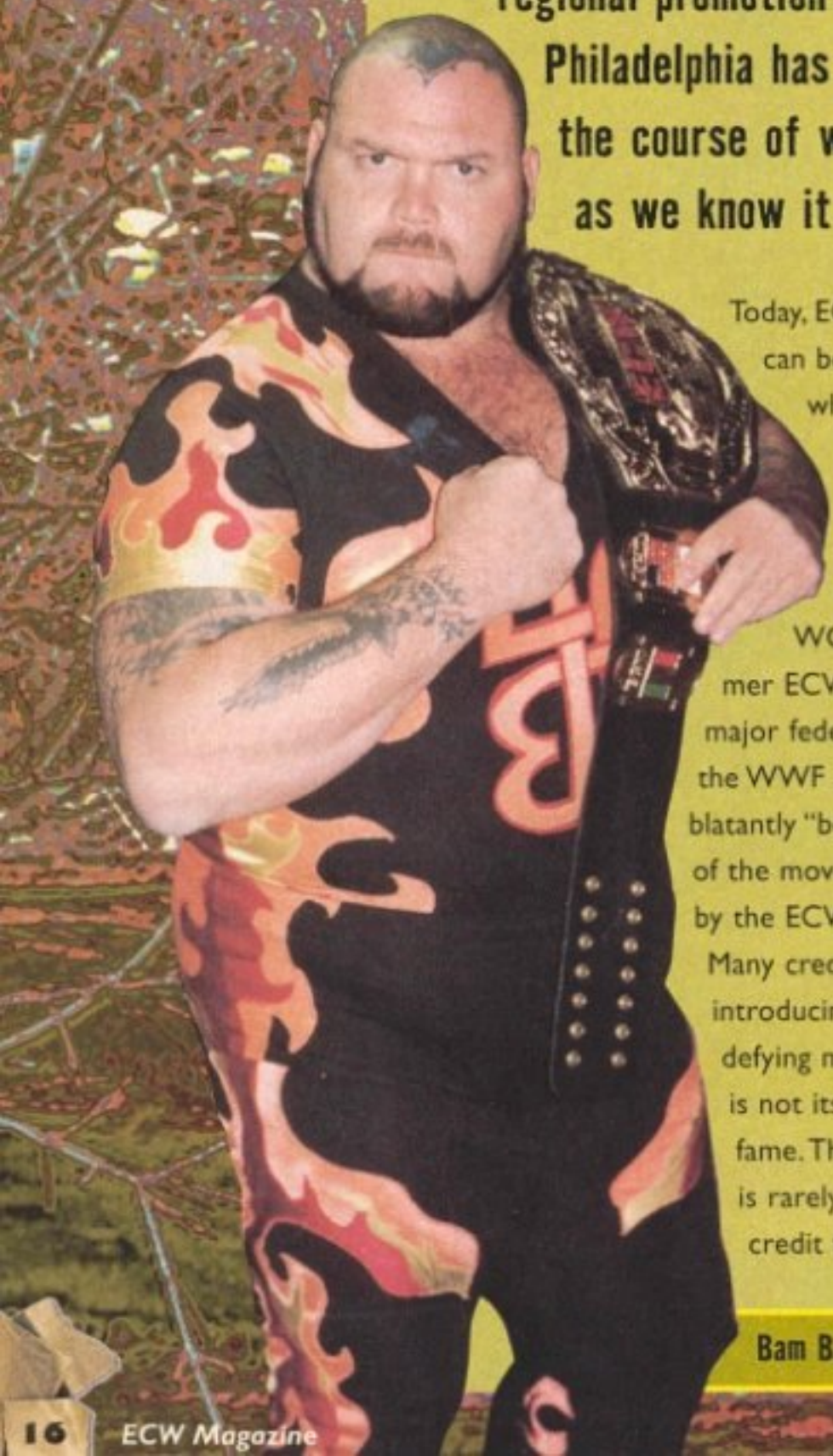
the American and Canadian publics to the light heavyweight division. ECW was the first organization in the United States to introduce the famous Mexican stars to American and Canadian audiences. In fact, not only did ECW introduce men such as Rey Mysterio, Konnan and Psychosis, it also made the American and Canadian fans



Paul E. Dangerously and 'Hotstuff' Eddie Gilbert in 1993

aware that there were other very talented wrestlers in the light-heavyweight division as well. Would the WCW have hired Chris Benoit, Dean Malenko, Eddy Guerrero and Chris Jericho if they hadn't been introduced to the national audiences on the ECW TV shows? These four fighters had been wrestling for several years before appearing in ECW. During this time, WCW never considered hiring them

Bam Bam Bigelow ECW Champion 1998



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There will be complete coverage of the World Wrestling Federation (WWF), World Championship Wrestling (WCW), and Extreme Championship Wrestling (ECW)—including all the events, schedules, and results.

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A102

because of its strict policy of hiring only heavyweights. Obviously, working for ECW was a good career move for these men because it enabled them to get over with wrestling fans.

These are not the only ECW alumni currently on the WCW roster. Other former ECW standouts who are now appearing for WCW include Raven, Perry Saturn, The Sandman, Bam Bam Bigelow and Chastity, all of whom have become very important members of the WCW team.

Meanwhile, WCW is not the only place where former ECW stars can be found. Sitting at the top of the WWF empire is former ECW standout Mankind.



AL Snow 1998

ECW fans know that Mankind really made a name for himself while wrestling in ECW rings. In addition to Mankind, Al Snow and his head, the Blue Meanie and most recently Public Enemy, late of WCW, can be found wrestling in the WWF.

Hiring these men was no accident. The WWF brass knew that, with their ECW experience, all of these stars would make an excellent addition to the WWF's talent roster.

Mankind will be the first to say that he loved his ECW experience. While some so called "experts" will say that Mankind became the wrestler he is today because of his experience in ECW, others will say that the ECW "style" actually evolved from Cactus Jack, the alter ego of Mankind. Both may be correct. But the style that has become synonymous with ECW is actually the same wild, kick-ass, "Texas 'rasslin'" style that Terry and Dory Funk, Abdullah the Butcher, Bruiser Brody and others perfected way back when.



Paul E. Dangerously with Jimmy Snuka in 1993

The man responsible for starting ECW is Tod Gordon. Prior to opening up ECW, Gordon, a native Philadelphian and lifelong wrestling fan, had been involved behind the scenes in the Philadelphia-based Tri-State Wrestling Alliance (TWA). In January 1992, after TWA folded, Gordon started Eastern Championship Wrestling. Gordon hired Eddie Gilbert as his creative director. ECW at the time ran one show every six weeks and had one television clearance, SportsChannel Philadelphia. After a falling-out between

Gilbert and Gordon, Todd made the controversial decision to hire 28-year-old Paul Heyman, better known to wrestling fans as Paul E. Dangerously, to take over the creative end.

Dangerously and Gordon's vision for the company started to take shape as they expanded the company into New Jersey, New York, Delaware and Florida. In May 1995, Gordon sold his interest in the company to Heyman, who then launched another expansion that built the company into a powerhouse.

While ECW may not be at the level of the WCW or the WWF, it is, nonetheless, a major success story with television outlets all over the U.S., Japan, Taiwan, Australia and the Middle East; six pay-per-views this year; a record deal; and its own line of T-shirts and related paraphernalia. Although ECW is "not for everyone," the WWF and WCW are copying ECW ideas and story lines more and more, and, with this, ECW is looking more mainstream every day.

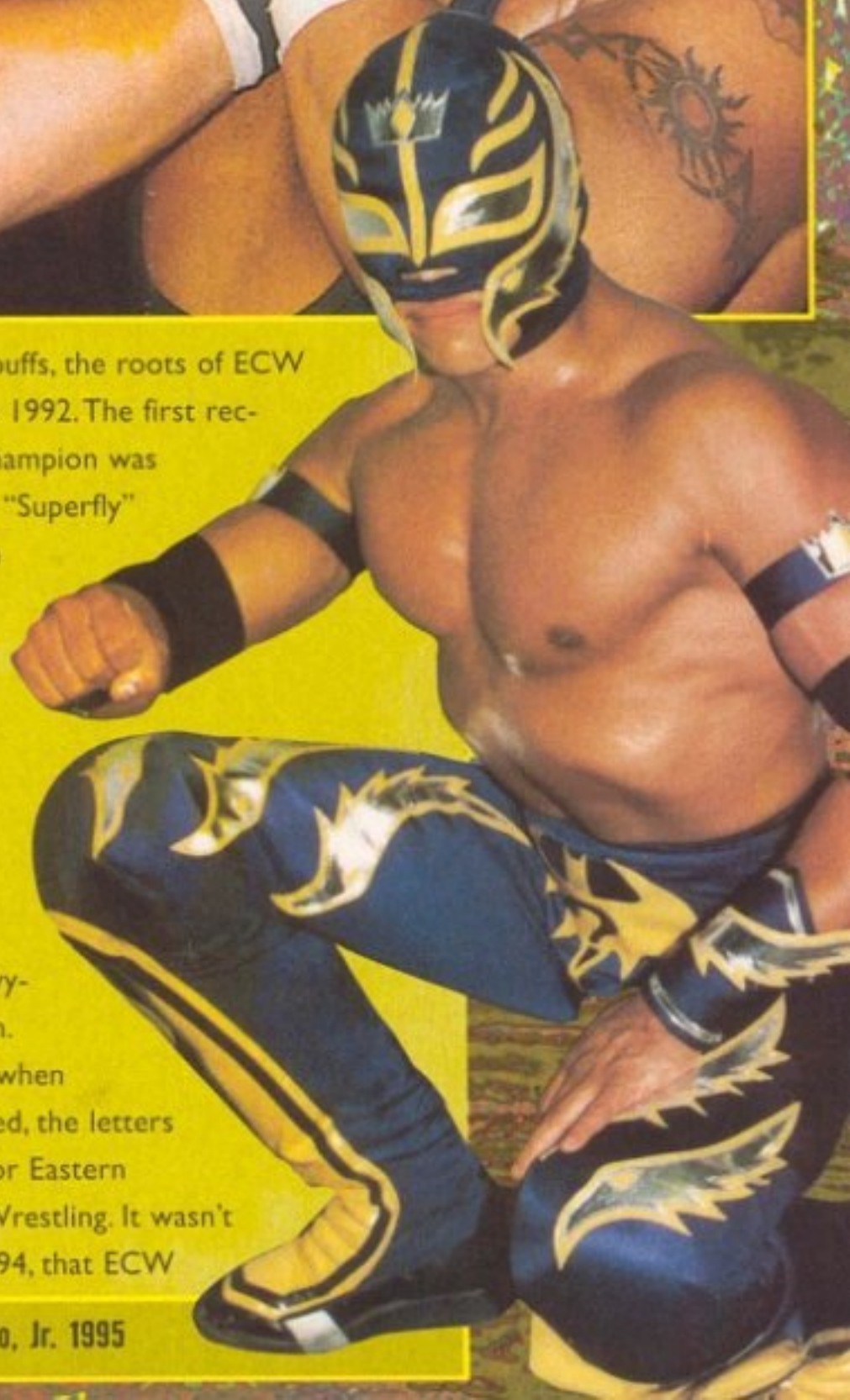


Shane Douglas 1999

For history buffs, the roots of ECW can be traced to 1992. The first recognized ECW champion was none other than "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka. On April 25, 1992, Superfly defeated "Wildman" Sal Bellomo in the finals of a tournament to become the ECW's first heavy-weight champion.

Incidentally, when ECW first started, the letters "ECW" stood for Eastern Championship Wrestling. It wasn't until Aug. 27, 1994, that ECW

Rey Misterio, Jr. 1995



became "Extreme Championship Wrestling." And with its new name came a new philosophy.

The organization relied heavily on the stars

the line in a tournament for the NWA World Title, a tournament which included the likes of Taz, Dean Malenko, Chris Benoit, Too Cold

Scorpio, and 911. Douglas won the tournament, but in a move that to this day has wrestling experts up in arms, threw down and renounced the NWA World Title and elevated the Eastern Title to the status of Extreme World Championship.

The first homegrown star to make it big in ECW was the Sandman. While ECW faithful booed the Sandman unmercifully when he first joined the organization, he eventually got over in a big way and, in time, came to be



The Pit Bulls former ECW Tag Team Champions 1997

who had been big names in Philadelphia. In addition to "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka, two other early champions, "Magnificent" Don Muraco and Tito Santana, had been big stars in the WWF during their prime. By the time they were competing in ECW, however, they were past their primes and living off of their reputations.

The first true "extreme" champion was Shane Douglas. Douglas won the title on March 26, 1994, during an 8-man tag team match. According to the pre-match stipulation, the champion, who at the time was Terry Funk, could lose the title if he were pinned during the bout. During the melee that followed, Douglas emerged victorious, and was crowned the new Eastern Champion. In August of that year, Douglas put the Eastern belt on



Mexico's Picosis 1994

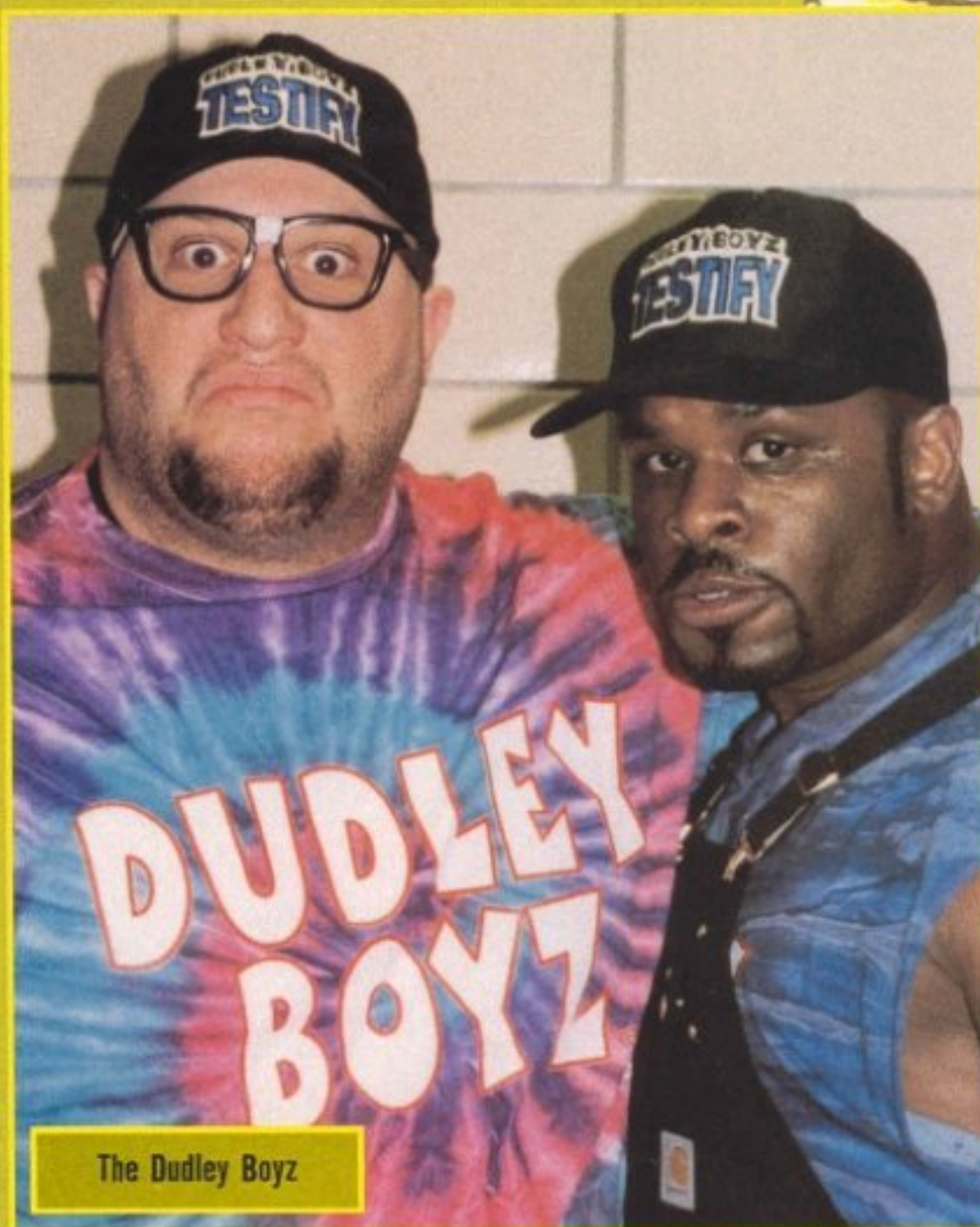
known as the "Extreme Icon." With his Singapore Cane and the lovely Woman by his side, the Sandman was the first true ECW hero. The Sandman won his first ECW title on Nov. 16, 1992, and would go on to capture the ECW World Heavyweight Title three times during his ECW career.

Of all the men who have wrestled in ECW, no one embodies the ECW spirit more than Terry Funk. Funk's appearance with the fledgling ECW gave the organization the credibility with the fans and the other wrestlers that it sorely needed. For young wrestlers, just being in the same dressing room with legend Terry Funk was a thrill of a lifetime. And whenever Funk was around, the other wrestlers on the card worked that much harder in hopes of emulating their hero. Meanwhile, the ECW faithful knew that whenever Terry Funk was in the ring, they would see a match that would be remembered for the ages.

While there are numerous Terry Funk incidents in ECW, one that stands out is the night that Funk asked the fans to hurl their chairs into the ring. As he waved the fans on, chair after chair began to fly into the ring. Soon, the ring was piled high with chairs and Funk just stood there in the center of the chair storm. This began the "extreme" fan involvement in the matches. From that night on, many of the ECW faithful began to bring their own "weapons" to the arena for the wrestlers to use against each other.

When talking history, ECW tag team legends Public Enemy – Rocko Rock and Johnny Grunge – can not be overlooked. When ECW was starting to get a reputation as a hardcore organization, Public Enemy was the tag team champion. Night after night, Public Enemy electrified the crowds with their outstanding performances. In its ECW tenure, Public Enemy captured the tag team title on four different occasions, and was the team that

literally changed the face of tag team wrestling. Before Public Enemy came on the scene, tag team

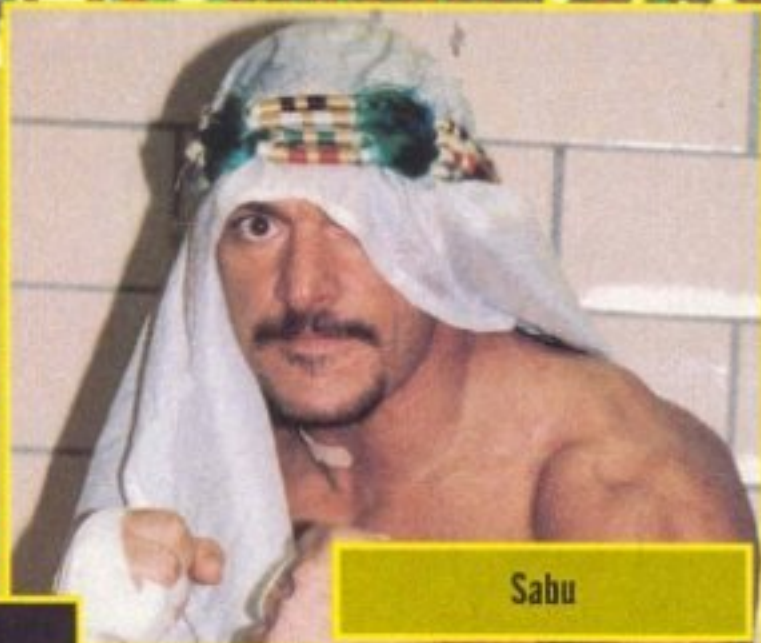


The Dudley Boyz

members had to tag their partners in and out of the ring. Because of Public Enemy, this rule was eradicated from the rule book.

The respect that the fans and fellow wrestlers had for Public Enemy was never more evident than during their last ECW match before joining the WCW. At the match's conclusion, everyone in the entire ECW organization came to the ring, one by one, to publicly thank Rocko Rock and Johnny Grunge for all that they did to help make ECW into a world-class organization. The fans in the arena stood on their feet and gave Public Enemy a sendoff they may never see again.

While Public Enemy is the ECW tag team hero of old, its hardcore reputation has been



Sabu

talent, Sabu was never able to make it on a national scale. However, when ECW came calling, Sabu was ready to shine. With his all out brawling tactics and his death-defying, high-flying antics, he immediately endeared himself to the ECW faithful. While Sabu could wrestle as well as brawl, it was his aversion for tables that made him an ECW legend. He was the first wrestler to incorporate the use of tables into his repertoire. During every one of his matches, Sabu would invariably send his opponent crashing through a table, usually a half-dozen times or more!

Today, Sabu is just as wild and crazy as he was when he first joined ECW. He's held the ECW Heavyweight title twice and the tag team title three times, but he's not satisfied. He wants the world championship and he despises Taz, the current title holder. Sabu's hatred for Taz is deep rooted and he will not rest until he annihilates Taz and wins the world belt again.

Sabu's partner in crime, Rob Van Dam, is another man who never fails to electrify the crowd with his outstanding moves, style and grace. Many consider Van Dam the "whole F'n show!" This adulation toward Van Dam has not gone unnoticed by his partner, Sabu. It is a safe bet that, because of this, one day soon, Van Dam and Sabu will come to blows over it.

While there are quite a few former ECW wrestlers scattered throughout the wrestling world, the organization is stronger than it has ever been. The strength of ECW lies not in one man, but in the entire organization. Each and every wrestler in the ECW locker room is responsible for the success of the organization. Paul E. Dangerously has built a solid foundation and there are always new stars on the horizon ready to move up the ladder to the top. The future for ECW lies in men such as Justin Credible, Lance Storm, Chris Chetti and The FBI. With these fighters and perennial favorites Taz, Tommy Dreamer, Francine, Tammy, Sabu, Van Dam and the Dudleyz, ECW can only get bigger. **ecw**

passed down to the Dudley Boyz: Buh Buh Ray and D-Von.

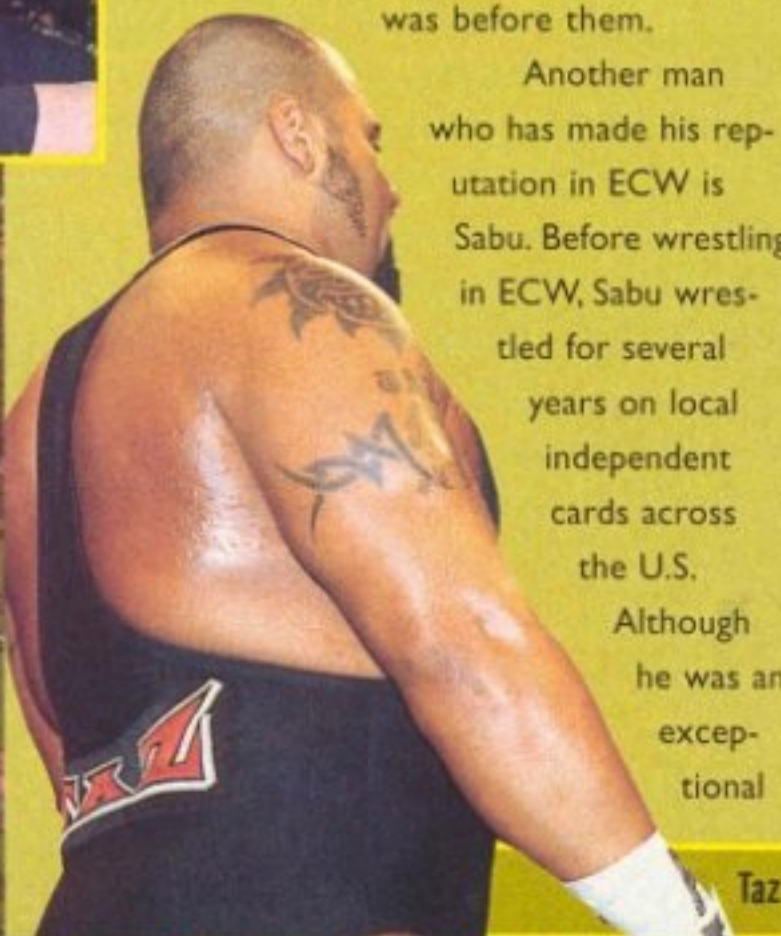
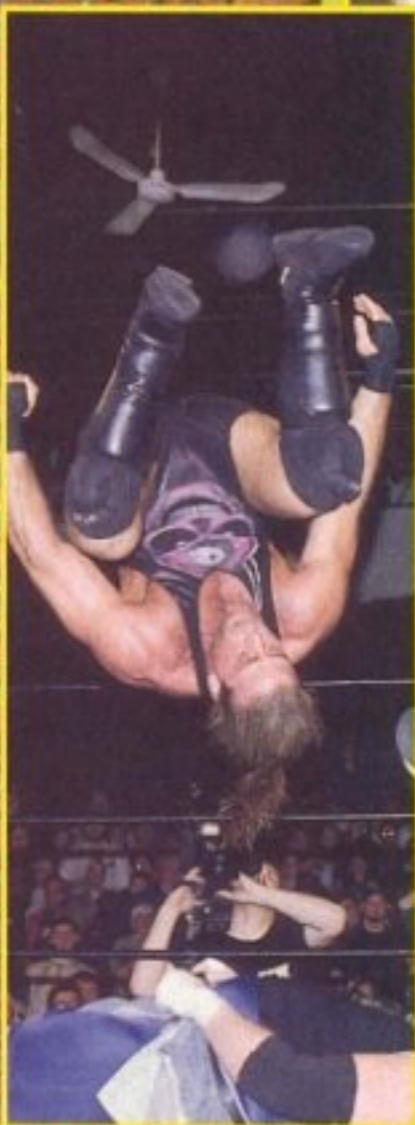
When the ECW fanatics first laid eyes on the Dudleyz and their ridiculous tie-dyed outfits, they couldn't believe their eyes and booed long and loud. But their boos were turned on deaf ears as the Dudleyz became determined to make it in ECW. And needless to say, they made it all the way to the top with their wild, never-say-die attitude. To date, the Dudleyz have held the ECW tag team championship on five different occasions and have come to

be recognized by a new generation of ECW fanatics as the top tag team, as Public Enemy was before them.

Another man who has made his reputation in ECW is Sabu. Before wrestling in ECW, Sabu wrestled for several years on local independent cards across the U.S.

Although he was an exceptional

Van Dam



Taz

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Van Dam

And Sabu:

A Team For The Ages!

Many say there is no better tag team in the wrestling world today than Rob Van Dam and Sabu.

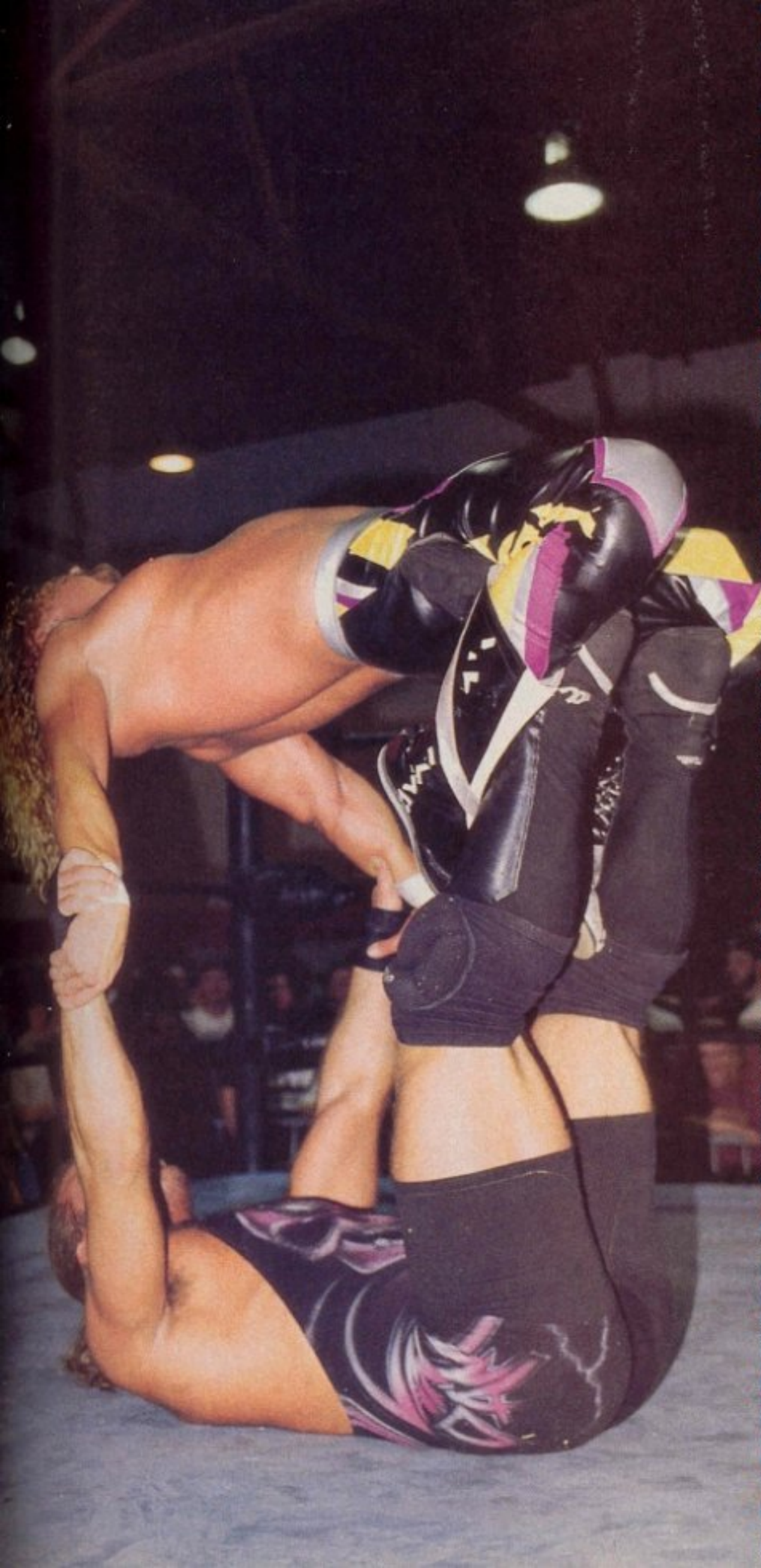
By Joseph Pollaro

They are head and shoulders above the competition in the tag team division. The "Extreme Team" has that rare combination of speed, agility and ability that separates the winners from the losers. But whether this combination will go down as the greatest of all time has a lot to do with the two individual personalities. Both Sabu and Van Dam are very volatile, one could snap at any moment. Should this happen, everything that they worked so hard to achieve would go up in smoke. This is where Bill Alfonso comes into play. Alfonso knows the strengths and weakness of both Sabu and Rob Van Dam. He also knows that his own success depends on keeping both of his men happy and free of petty jealousies and arguments. This is not an easy task and one that keeps Bill Alfonso awake at night.

As a manager, Bill Alfonso has few peers. He coaches his men from ringside and constantly studies their opponents so that he can alert them to what is happening both inside and outside the ring. What really sets Alfonso apart from other wrestling managers is not the annoying whistle in his mouth, but his outstanding refereeing career prior to becoming a manager. During the early '80s, Alfonso was frequently called upon to be the special referee whenever there was a world championship match. At the time, his main base of operation was in Florida, but Alfonso would travel all over the world to referee important bouts.

With the demise of Florida Championship Wrestling, Alfonso joined WCW as a special referee. Following this stint, he joined the WWF, where he





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was once again involved in many championship bouts.

After a more than 10-year career as a referee, Alfonso felt that the time had come to try his hand at something different. At the same time, ECW was beginning to tour Florida on a regular basis. As soon as Alfonso went to an ECW show in his hometown, he knew that he was hooked. "I loved it!" Alfonso recalled. "It was entirely different from my previous situations and I immediately knew that I somehow had to get more involved."

Alfonso immediately offered his services to then-ECW commissioner Tod Gordon. Knowing Alfonso's history, Gordon agreed to let Alfonso become a part of ECW. Alfonso, however, turned out to be Gordon's worst nightmare.

As soon as Alfonso arrived in Philadelphia, he went to the commission and had himself appointed head of the ECW referees. With this post, Alfonso was given broad, sweeping powers beyond the scope of a normal referee. He had the authority to run into the ring and stop a match if he saw something that he didn't like. During one of his weaker moments, he outlawed "extreme" violence. His penchant for getting involved with the ECW action lead to a major clash with Gordon. He and Alfonso eventually came to blows in the middle of the ring during an ECW event. To lend perspective, this happened two years before WCW head Eric Bischoff or WWF boss Vince McMahon ever dreamed about getting physically involved in the action.

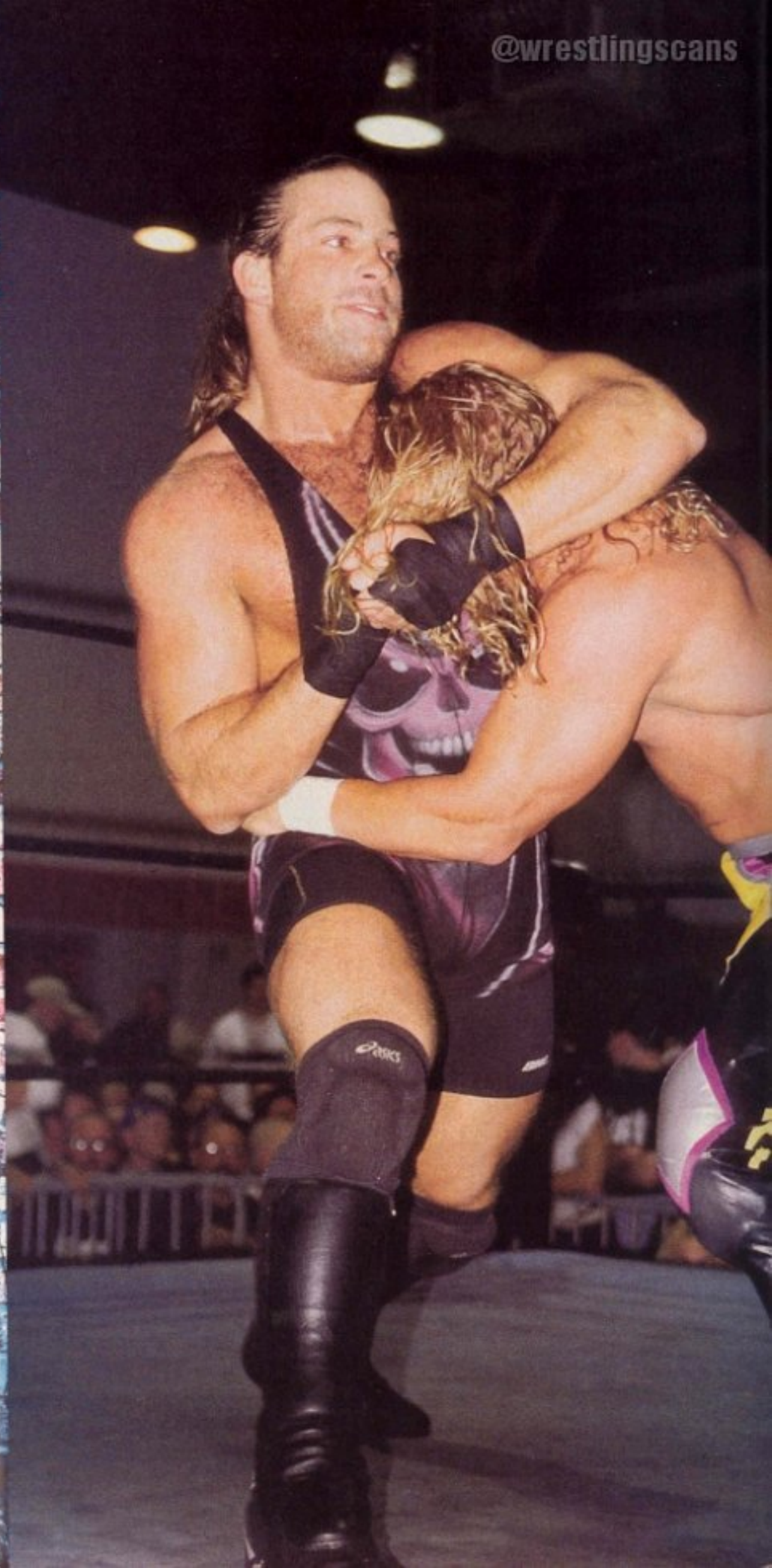
Once the Tod Gordon controversy had run its course, Alfonso persuade

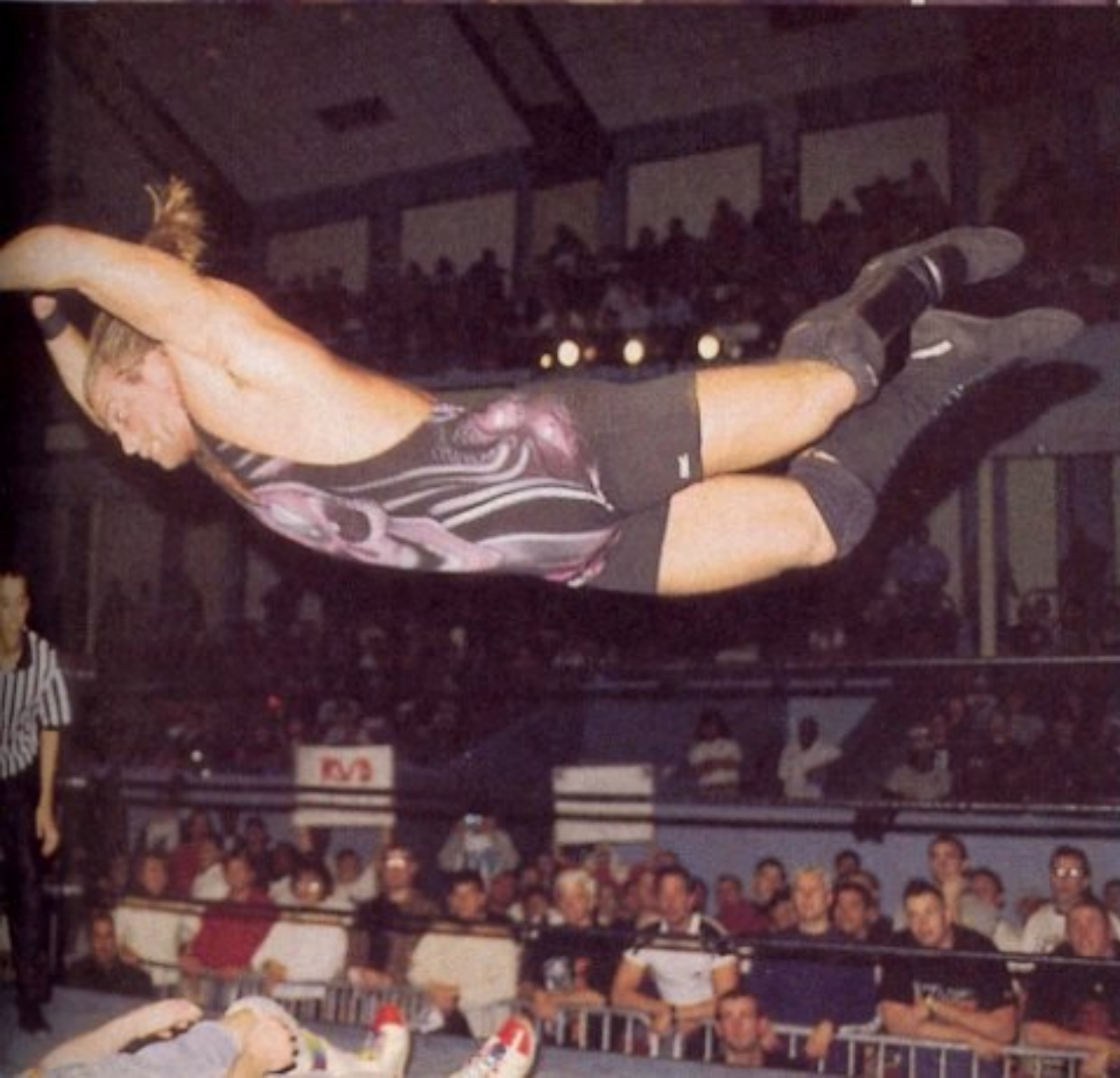
Taz to let him be his manager. With Alfonso in his corner, Taz stepped out of the preliminaries and moved right into the main events. Early in 1998, however, the Taz-Alfonso relationship started to become a little strained. Alfonso, fearing that Taz would fire him, had a trick up his sleeve. At the April 1998 pay-per-view, Alfonso turned on his protege and sided with the wild and crazy Sabu during Sabu's match with Taz. As Sabu pummeled Taz, Alfonso ripped off his own shirt to reveal a "Sabu" shirt underneath. This was the start of the Sabu-Taz war in which Alfonso has played a major role. This hatred still exists between the two fighters.

For the remainder of 1998, Bill Alfonso continued to manage Sabu. With Alfonso in his corner, Sabu became more focused than he ever was before. But during one of Sabu's many Japanese tours, Alfonso confronted Rob Van Dam and asked him if he would like him to be his manager. Van Dam, knowing of Alfonso's success, readily agreed to let Alfonso manage his affairs.

However, when Sabu returned to the ECW arena and found out about the new arrangement that Alfonso had, he went ballistic! Sabu immediately confronted Alfonso in the dressing room, and if it weren't for quick intervention by the huge ECW security force, Sabu may have torn Alfonso apart limb by limb!

Eventually Sabu and Van Dam came to blows over the Alfonso situation, but somehow, somewhere Alfonso managed to persuade both that it





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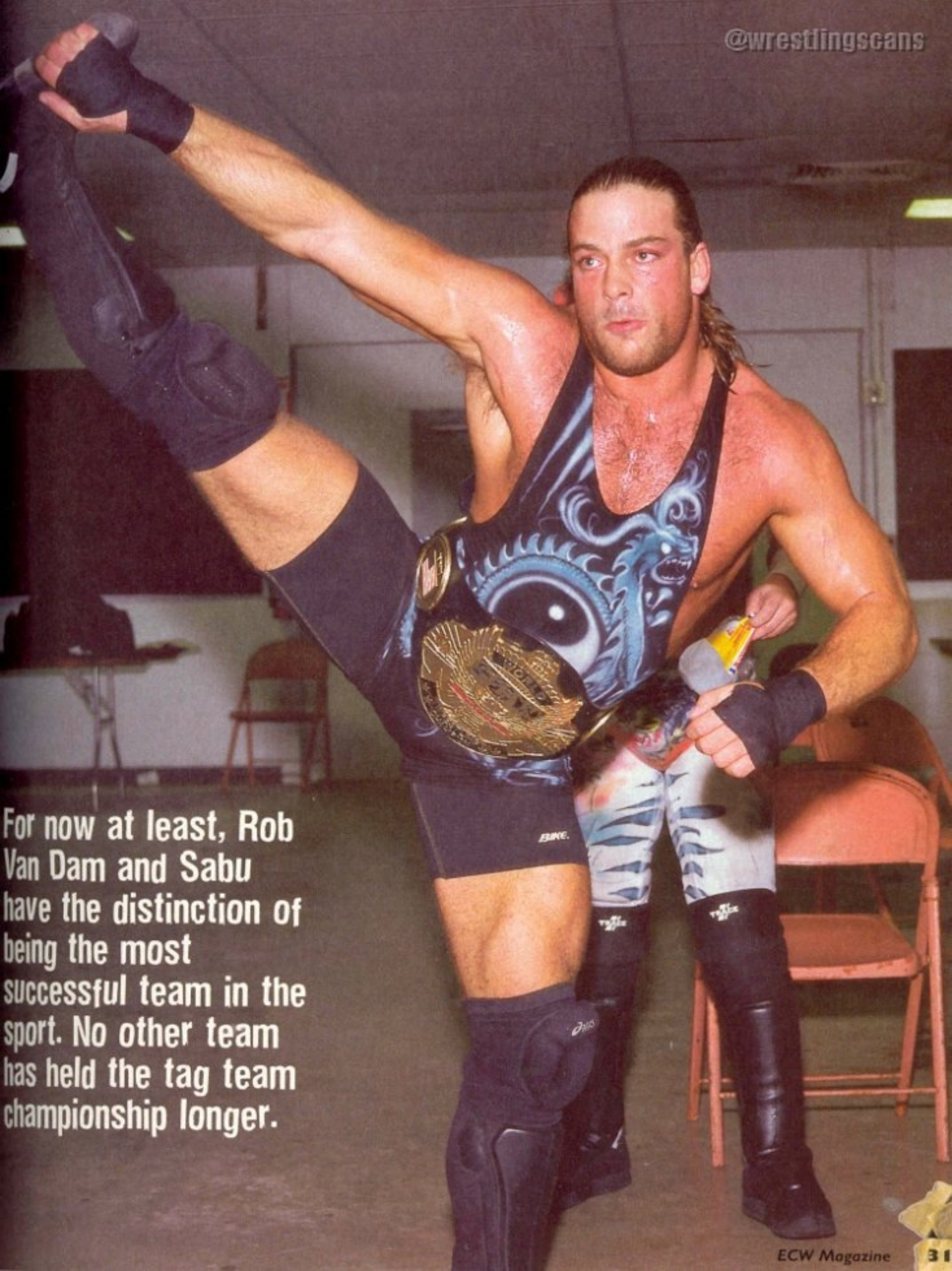
would be better for their respective careers if they were friends instead of enemies. After much behind the scenes bickering, Alfonso got the two most volatile men in ECW, to cast aside their differences and work together.

While many in the ECW locker room felt that this situation would never work out, it somehow has. Not only are Sabu and Van Dam tag team champions, but individually both are champions in his own right, with Van Dam holding the ECW TV title and Sabu the FTW belt that he won from Taz. For now at least, Rob Van Dam and Sabu have the distinction of being the most successful team in the sport. No other team has held the tag team championship longer than Sabu and Van Dam. While Bill Alfonso brags that his is a team for the ages, that age could come to a quick end.

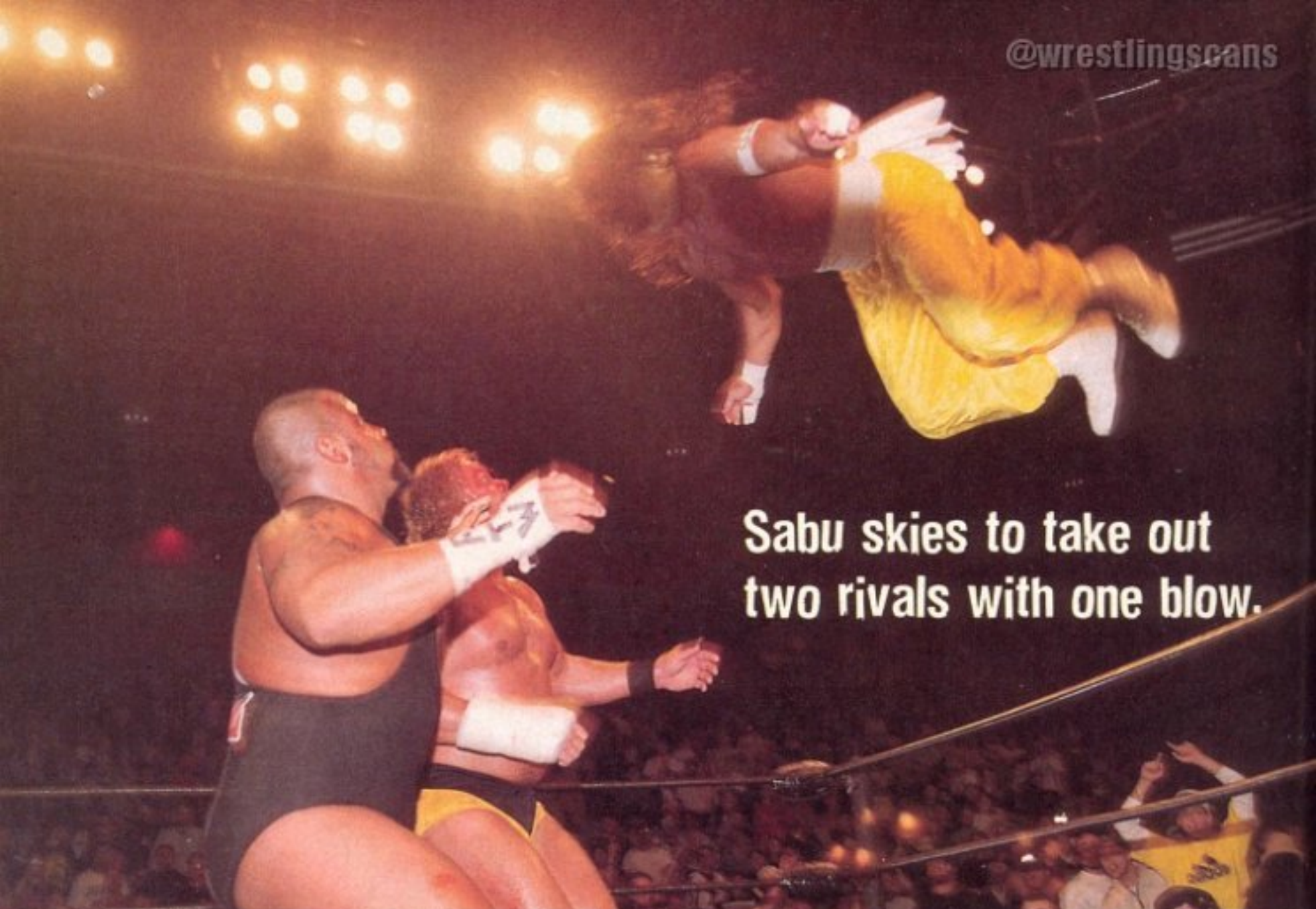
Eventually Sabu and Van Dam will come to blows. It's inevitable. Both are very volatile personalities and each feels that he is the most important person in the team. With the ECW faithful referring to Van Dam as the "whole F'n show," their breakup may come sooner than anticipated.

But let's not dwell on the future. For now at least, it can't be denied that the team of Rob Van Dam and Sabu are not only the best tag team in ECW, but also in the entire World of Wrestling! **ecw**

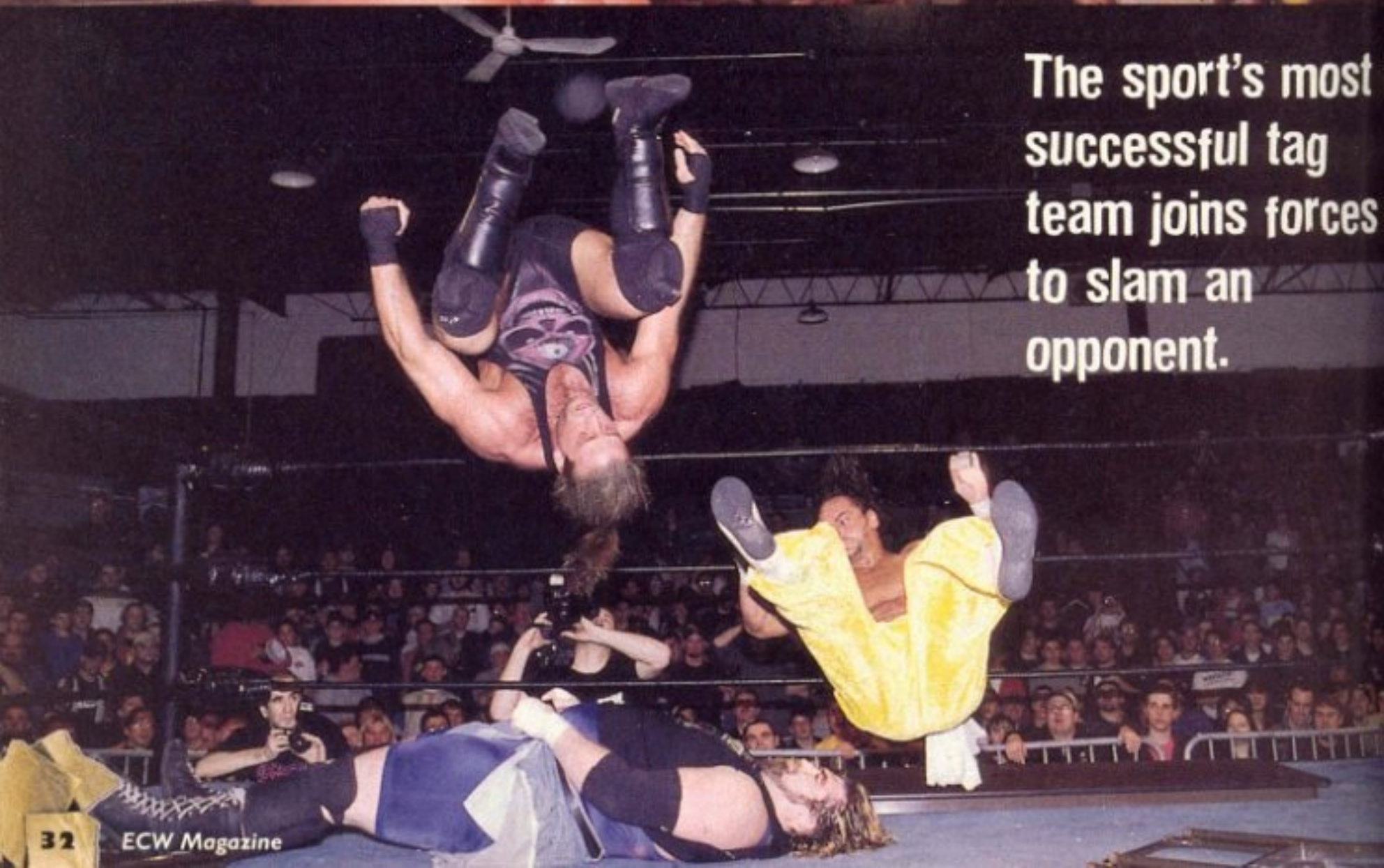




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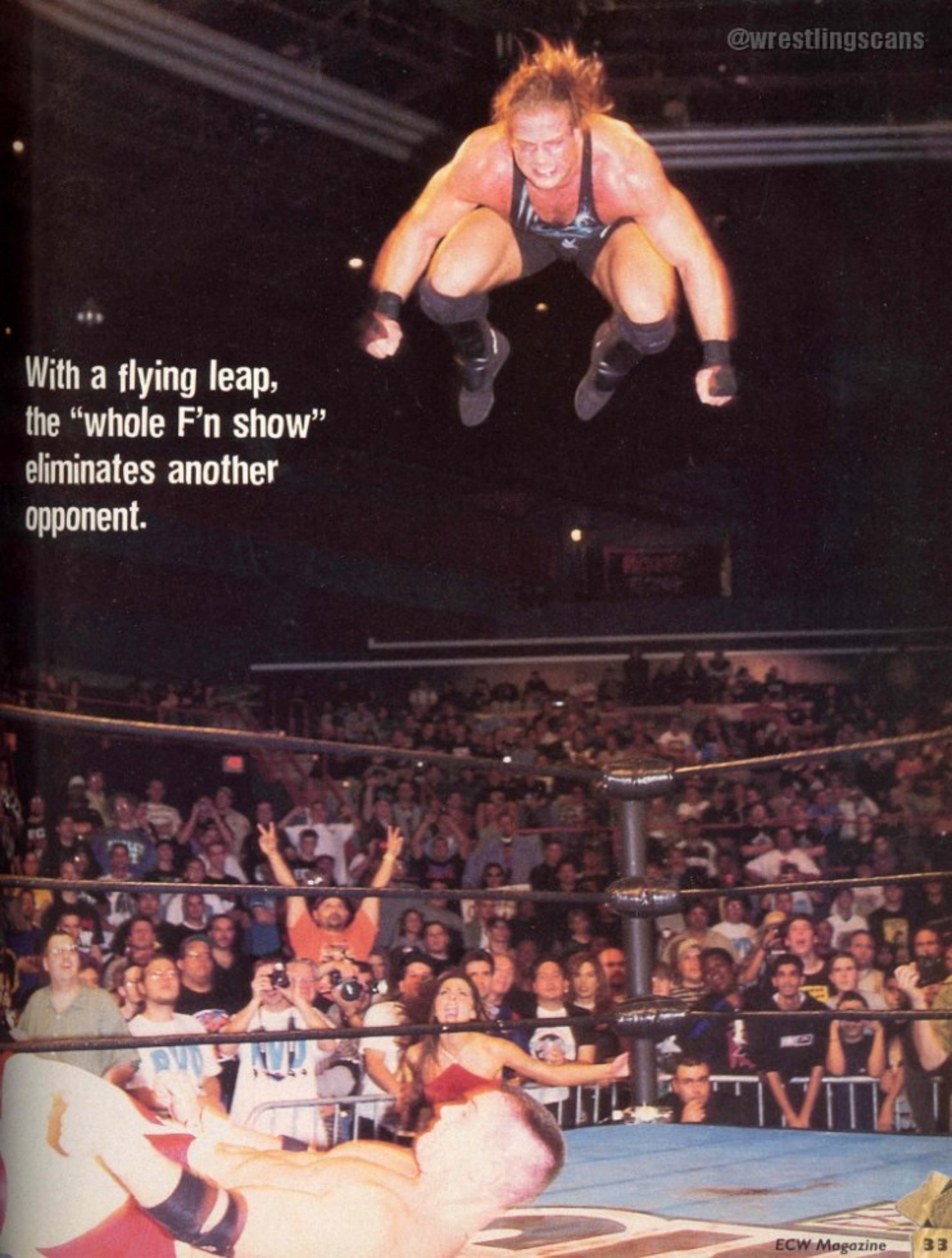


Sabu skies to take out two rivals with one blow.

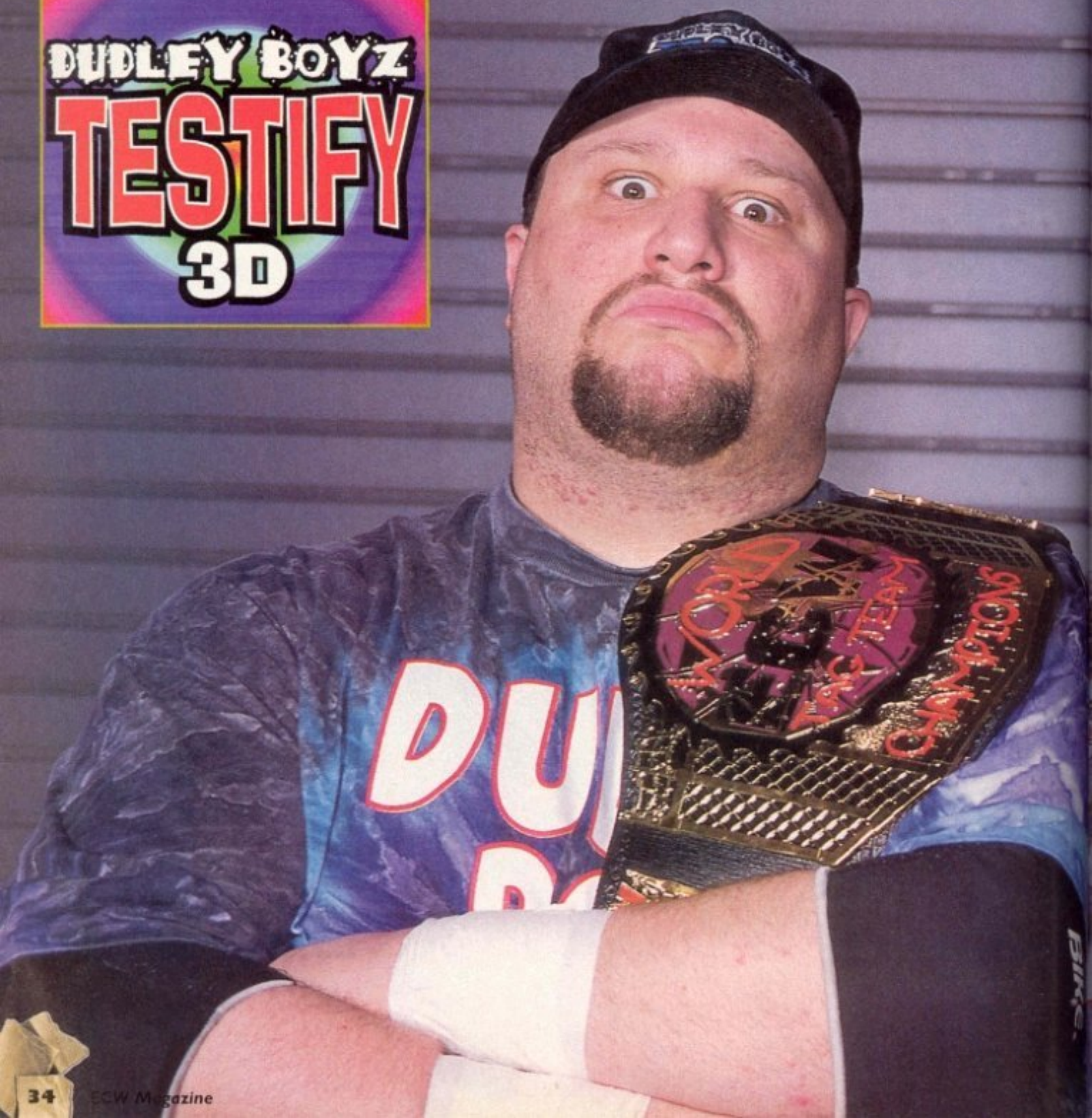
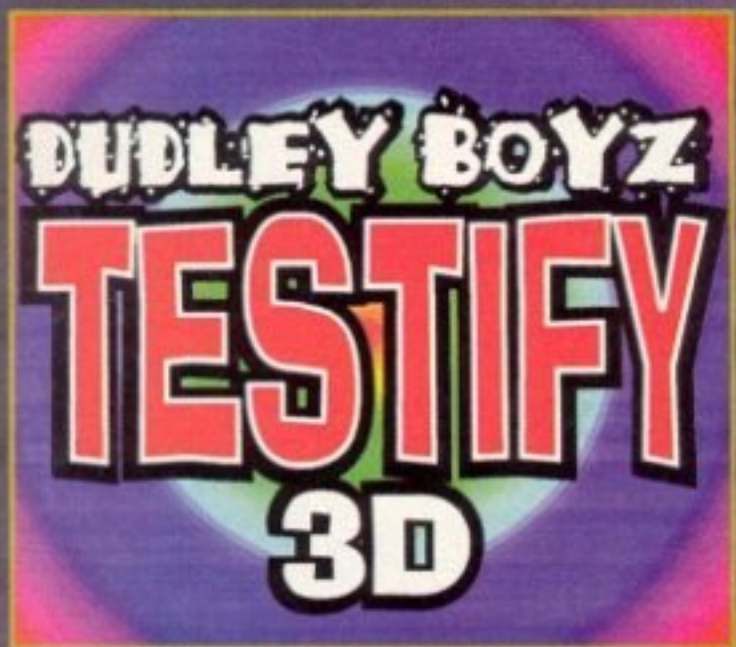


The sport's most successful tag team joins forces to slam an opponent.

With a flying leap,
the “whole F’n show”
eliminates another
opponent.



The Dudleys



The Best Is Yet To Come!

By Joseph Pollaro



WHO WOULD HAVE EVER
IMAGINED THAT A GROUP OF
NERDS DRESSED IN TIE-
DYED SHIRTS AND WEARING
BROKEN GLASSES WOULD
EVENTUALLY BECOME
"ICONS" IN ECW? BUT IN
THE INCREDIBLY WACKY
WORLD OF ECW, WHERE THE
ABNORMAL IS NORMAL,
PEOPLE LIKE THE DUDLEYS
ARE CONSIDERED THE
"BOMB!"



When Buh Buh Ray, D-Von, Big Dick, Sign Guy and their "runt" brother, Spike, first appeared in ECW, they were literally booed out of the building. Looking the way they did, it wasn't hard for the ECW faithful to let their displeasure be known by booing them long and loud. And after watching them in action, the fans' boos didn't subside one bit, but actually got louder. But the boys from Dudleyville were determined not to let the ECW "marks" make their lives miserable. In hopes of turning around the impression that the loonies from Philadelphia had made for

them, the Dudleys went to the gym and trained and trained and then trained some more so that they could make a good showing in ECW land.

According to Buh Buh Ray, the unofficial leader and spokesman for the group, "We really didn't know what we were getting ourselves into when we first came to ECW. Hey, we knew that the guys were crazy and the fans just as nuts, but admittedly we weren't quite yet ready to make it to the top of the ECW empire."

The Dudleys' first appearance came in 1996 and right

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from the start the Dudleys were having problems among themselves. DW Dudley or "Dances with Dudley," was the first member from the group to depart the scene. DW, with his Indian background, was a little different from his brothers and just couldn't cut it in ECW. For this reason, DW was politely asked to return "home" and he has never been seen again.

After DW left, the brothers decided that Spike, the "runt" of the family had to go too. Joel Gertner, the self-proclaimed manager of the clan said, "It's sad to say, but in this family, just like in many families, there were times when the brothers just couldn't get along with each other. Buh Buh, D-Von, Big Dick, Sign Guy and myself desperately tried to help our little brother, Spike. But as small as he is, he's got a 100-pound cement block sitting on top of his shoulders. Finally, when his brain couldn't absorb our lessons any longer, we had to kick the runt out for his own good. And in retrospect, that was the best thing that we could ever have done for him."

Since Spike was forced out of the family, he has done quite well for himself and has even scored quite a few victories over many of the top stars with his gung-ho spirit and never-say-die attitude.

The most volatile of the Dudley family feuds occurred

HATE
THE
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between Buh Buh and D-Von. The roots of their argument stemmed from early in their ECW tenure. D-Von felt that the brothers were being perceived as a comedy act and not as hardcore competitors due to Buh Buh's constant dancing and stuttering. The more the fans yelled for Buh Buh to dance and talk, the angrier D-Von became. Finally, D-Von's disgust with Buh Buh over his penchant for the fans approval, lead to warfare between the two. With this, D-Von turned on his brothers and started a nasty feud that lasted nearly six months and culminated at the "November to Remember" event in 1996. The match between Buh Buh and D-Von

was as wild as any battle ever waged in that arena and firmly established both as true hardcore competitors. After this battle, D-Von patched up his differences with the family, and we haven't seen Buh Buh dance

nor heard him stutter in public since.

When D-Von returned to the fold, it marked the beginning of the Dudleys' dominance in ECW. On March 15, 1997, D-Von and Buh Buh captured their

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WHILE THE DUDLEYS CONSIDER THEMSELVES THE BEST TAG TEAM IN ECW, ONE MIGHT WONDER WHY THE SO CALLED "GREATEST" TAG TEAM IN ECW DOESN'T HAVE THE BELTS TO PROVE IT.

first tag team title together when they defeated the Eliminators in the ECW Arena. In the next year and a half, the Dudleys would go on to capture the prestigious ECW tag team title four more times, winning the belts on June 20, 1997, in Waltham, Mass., from the Eliminators; Aug. 17, 1997 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., from the Gangstas; Oct. 24, 1998, in Cleveland from Rob Van Dam and Sabu; and Nov. 7, 1998, in the Elk's Lodge in Queens, N.Y., from Balls Mahoney and Tanaka.

While the Dudleys consider themselves the best tag team in ECW, one might wonder why the so called "greatest" tag team in ECW doesn't have the belts to

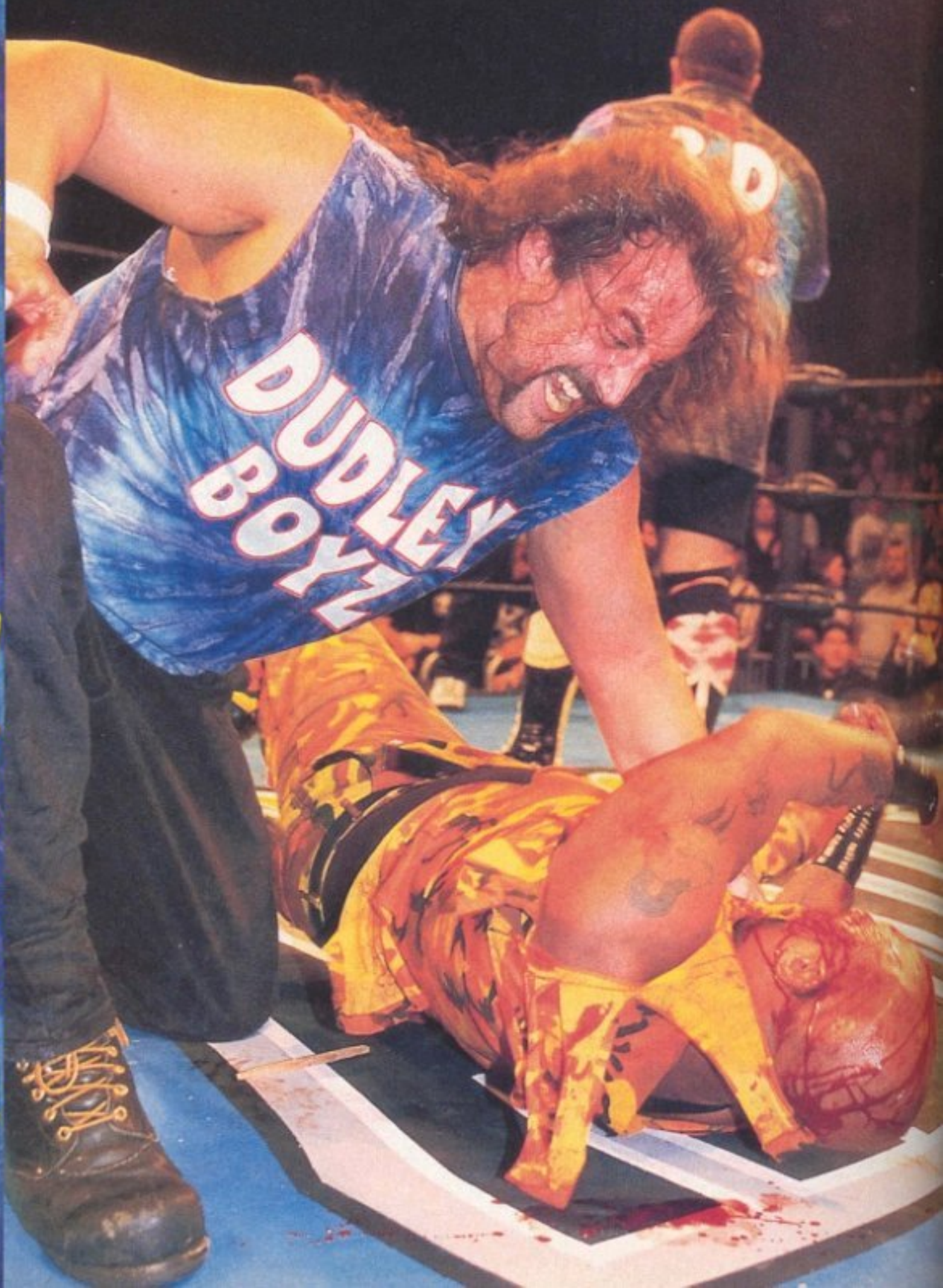
prove it. The truth is, for the past two months, the Dudleys had other things on their mind. First and foremost to them was settling a score with Public Enemy.

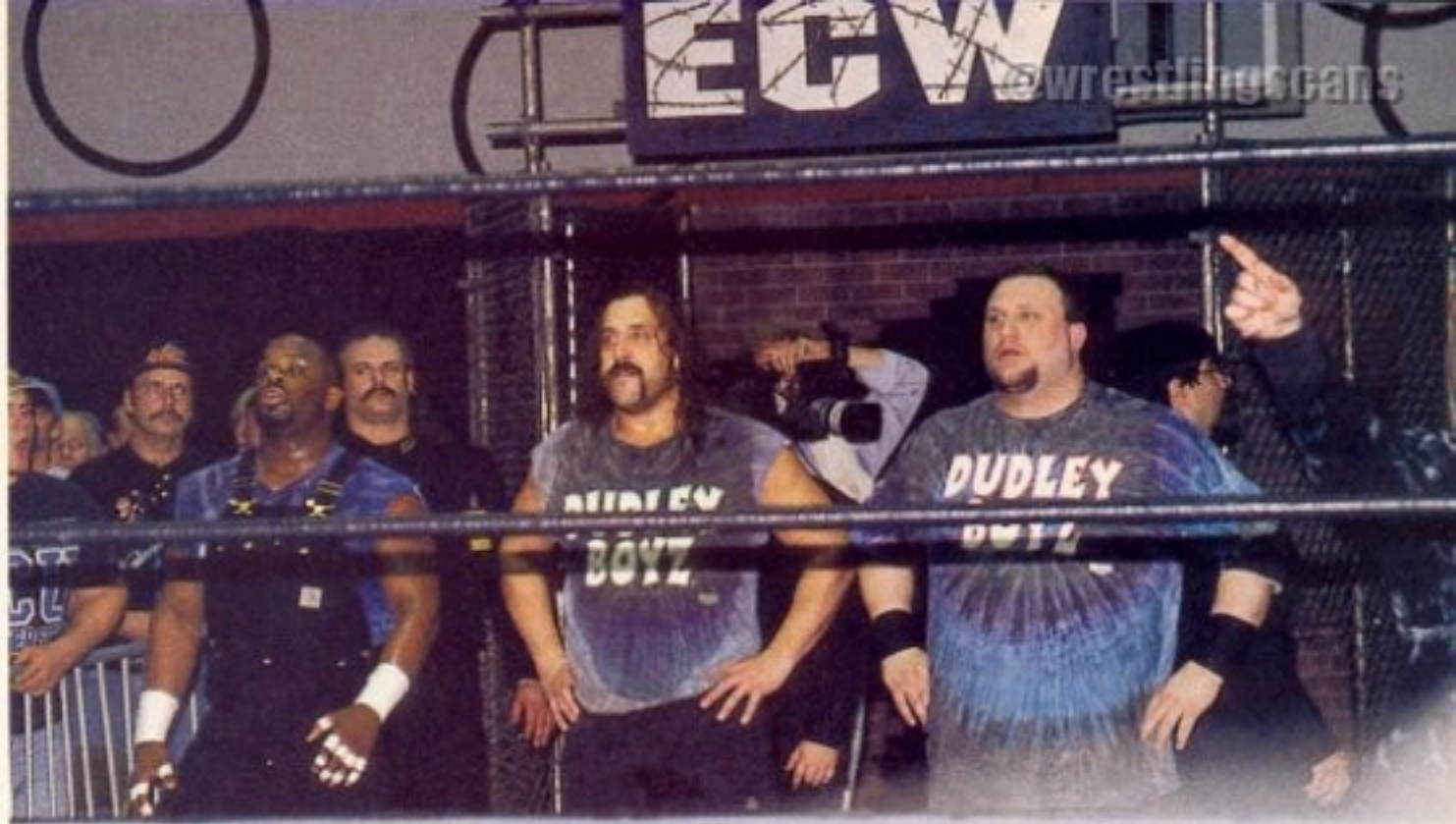
At the beginning of the new year, a

rumor began circulating that the "greatest" tag team in ECW history was ready to make its triumphant return home. Hearing this, the brothers Dudley went berserk.



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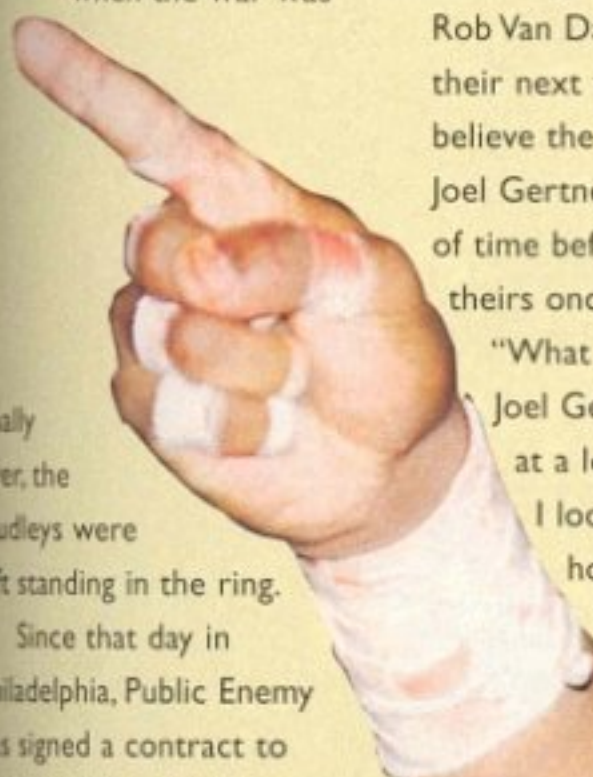
have targeted the current ECW tag team champions, Rob Van Dam and Sabu, as their next victims. And if you believe the Dudleys' manager, Joel Gertner, it's only a matter of time before the belts are theirs once again.

"What can I say?" asked Joel Gertner. "I am totally at a loss for words when I look back and think how far we have come and how far we have yet to go. Next to fall will be Van Dam and

name another team who has been as successful as the Dudleys? You can't because it's not possible. No other active tag team today has won as many tag team titles as the Dudleys have in their ECW tenure, and believe me, the best is yet to come."

Joel Gertner's words may prove prophetic because the Dudleys are young, talented and experienced. Barring injuries, with a combination like this, the Dudley's could be around this sport well into the next millennium. **ecw**

Sabu. We've humbled them before, and we will humble them again. The Dudleys epitomize tag team wrestling today. Can you



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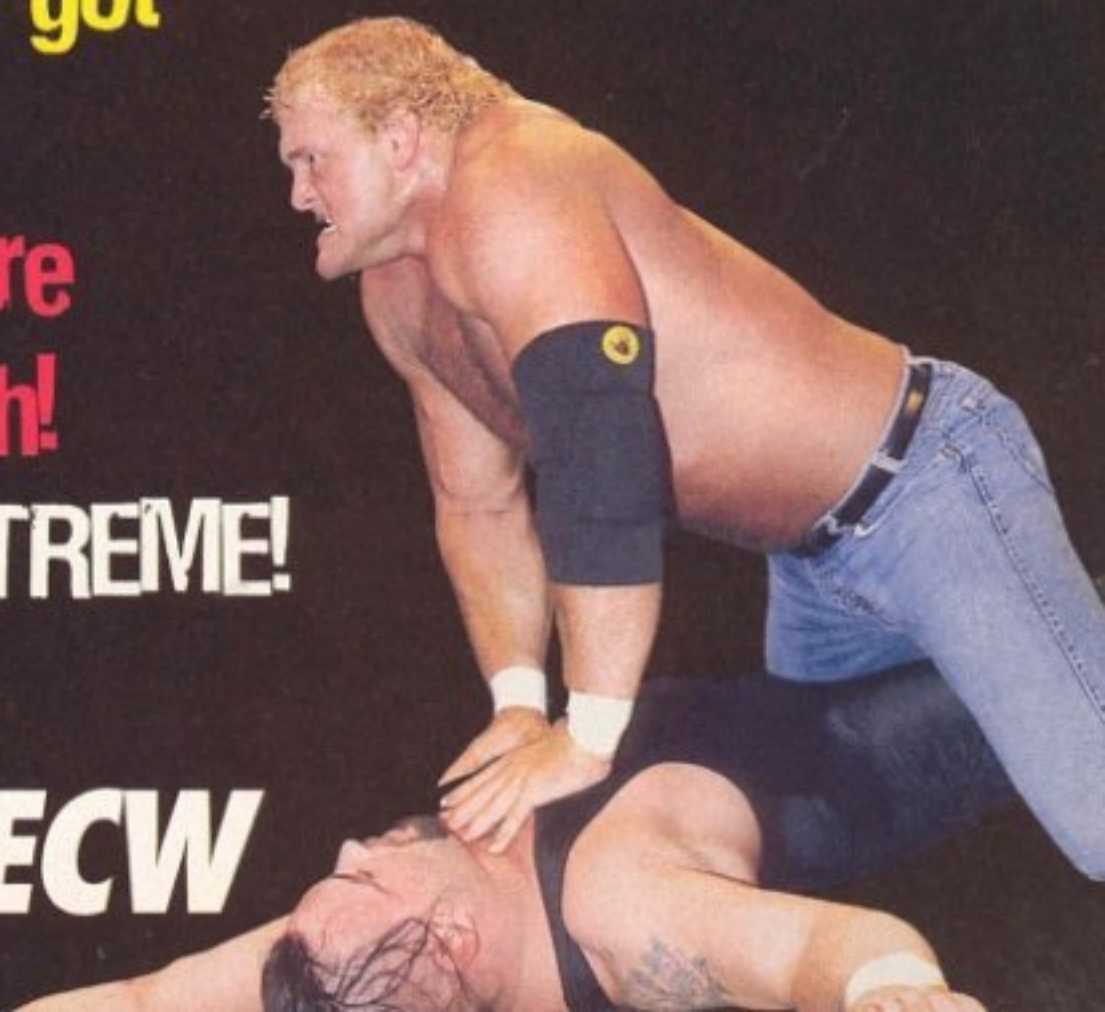
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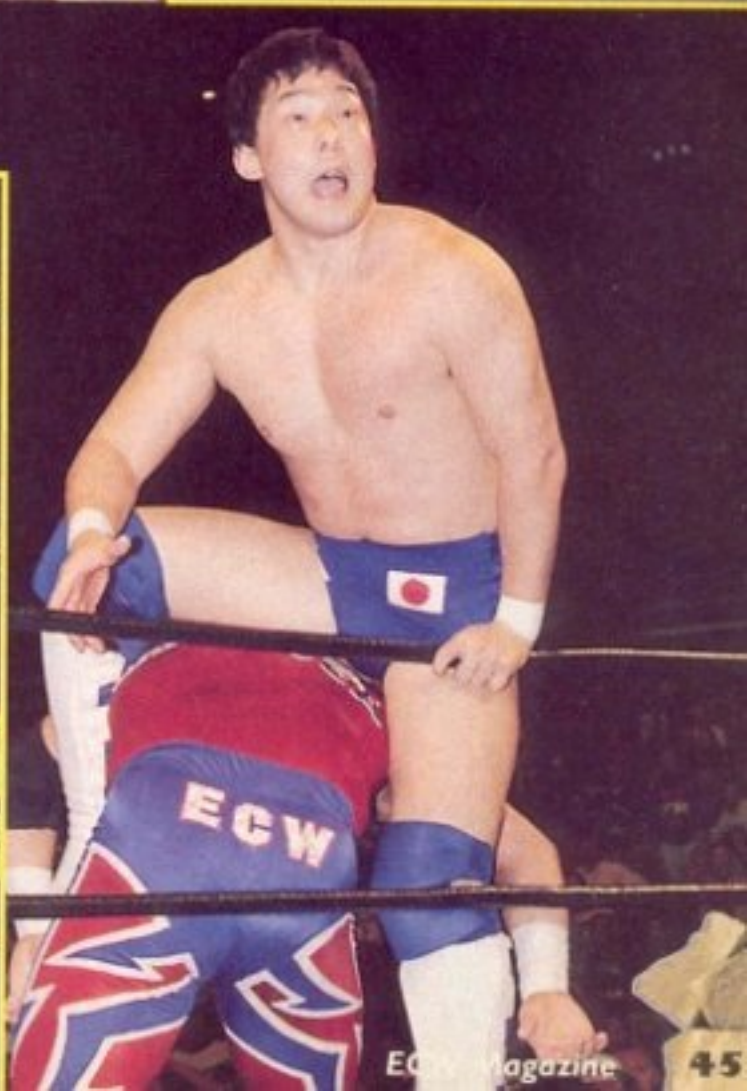
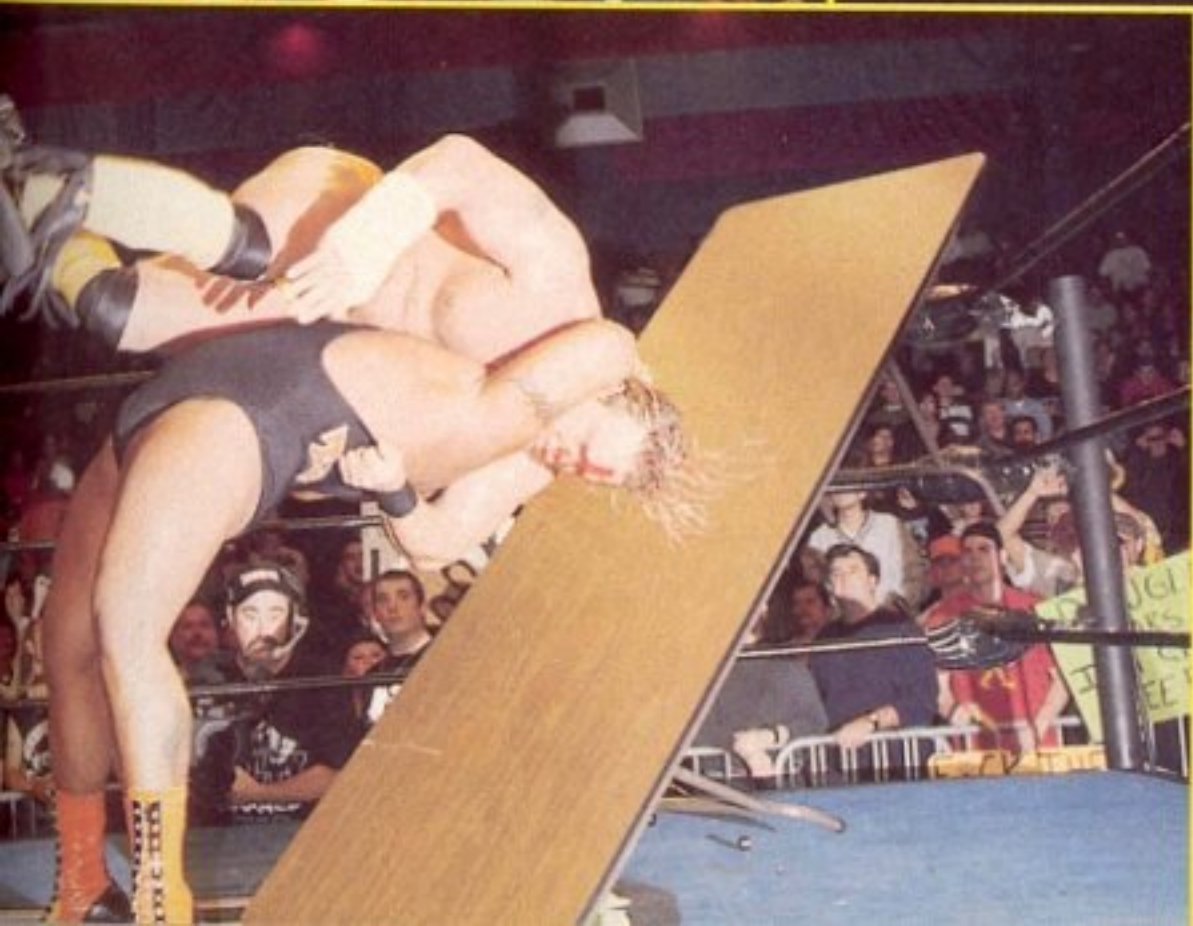
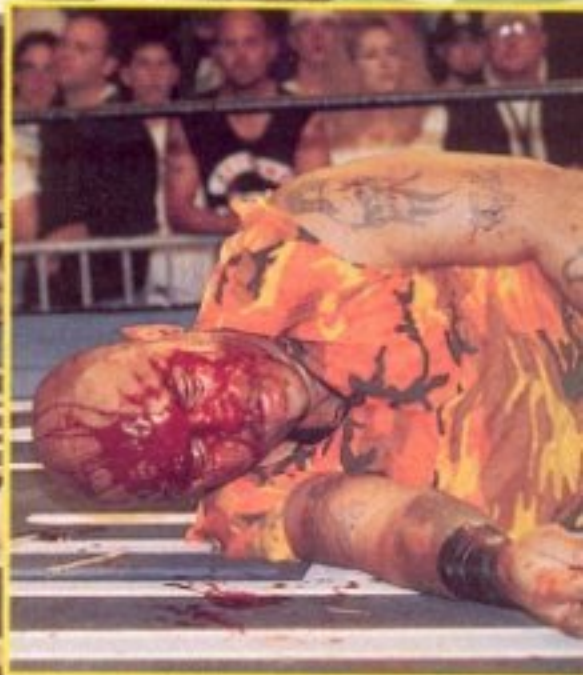
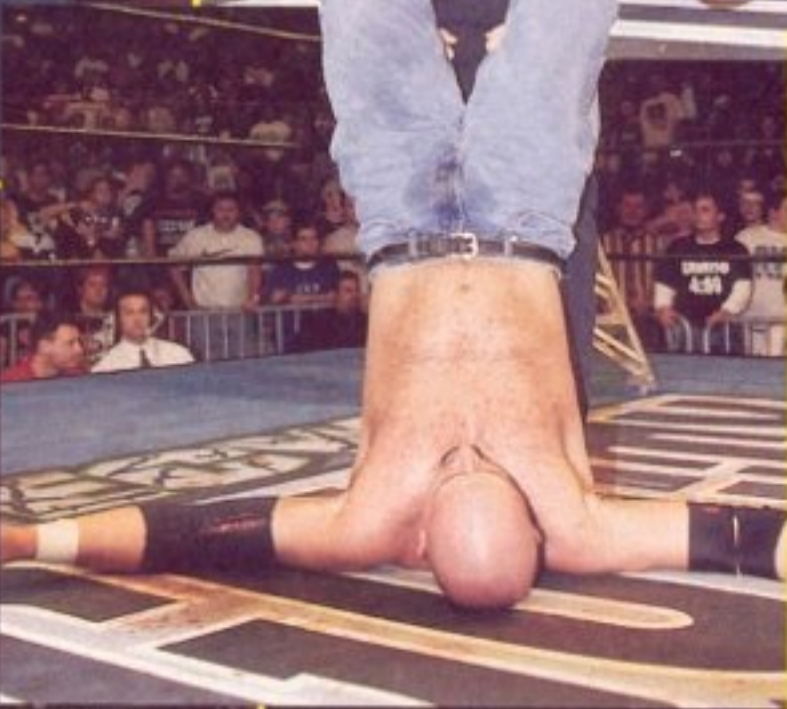
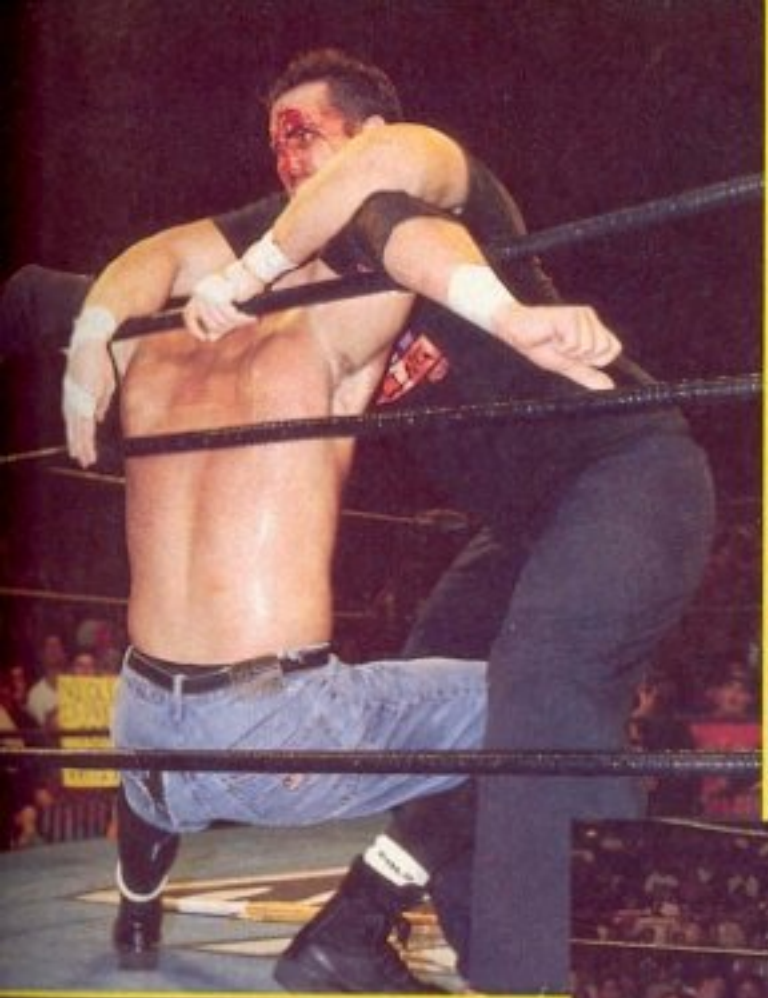
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CHARGED

LIVE ON PAY-PER-VIEW

If there was one feeling that fans walked away with from the Jan. 10, 1999, **Guilty As Charged** event, it was that ECW knows how to put on a show. While injuries prevented two of the scheduled matches from taking place, the event was a raging success. If fans were thrown by the announcement of the changes in the card, their fears were quelled by the way ECW handled the changes, particularly how the three-way dance was scrapped and rising star Lance Storm was given a shot at Rob Van Dam's World Television Title.

Joey Styles made an insinuation just as the pre-game hype was ending that a former WWF champ who "tore through WCW" would be on the pay-per-view. Just after going live, Paul Heyman came on the air and, in his excited manner, announced that the card was changing. He stated that he had every faith in his talent roster that despite the absences, they were still going to put on a stellar show. History tells us that if we can believe a promoter who tells us this, it's Heyman and ECW.

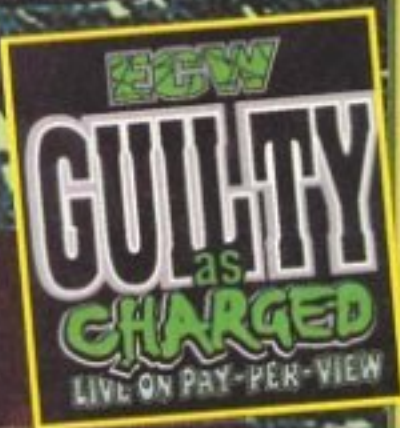


The Full Blooded Italians vs. Amish Road Kill and Danny Doring

The Action: The match proceeded as expected, with numerous machinations from members of FBI. Then, as the match approached the 5-minute mark, the shot widened and AC/DC's "Big Balls" began to play over the loudspeaker, signaling the arrival of the duo of Axl Rotten and Balls Mahoney. Their appearance got a great response from the crowd, and the team led the crowd in a singalong to their entrance music. As the singing wound down, Axl grabbed the mic and called the in-ring action a "homosexual dance party," and issued the challenge to turn the match into a 3-way elimination match, a match invented and perfected by ECW, known as a 3-way dance. The pace of the match picked up and turned into a prime example of an ECW match.

Huge fan favorites Axl and Balls ignited the crowd whenever they became involved. Tommy Rich nailed Danny Doring with the Italian flag, setting up the fisherman's suplex by Smothers and Guido at 8:14. The end was nearing, however, for the Italians, as Balls and Axl came back and took control to end the match shortly thereafter.

The Finish: Just after the 10-minute mark, Balls and Axl finished off the FBI with each of their respective finishing moves. Big Guido and Sal rushed the ring for the save but were met viciously by Balls' and Axl's PPV logo-adorned chairs.

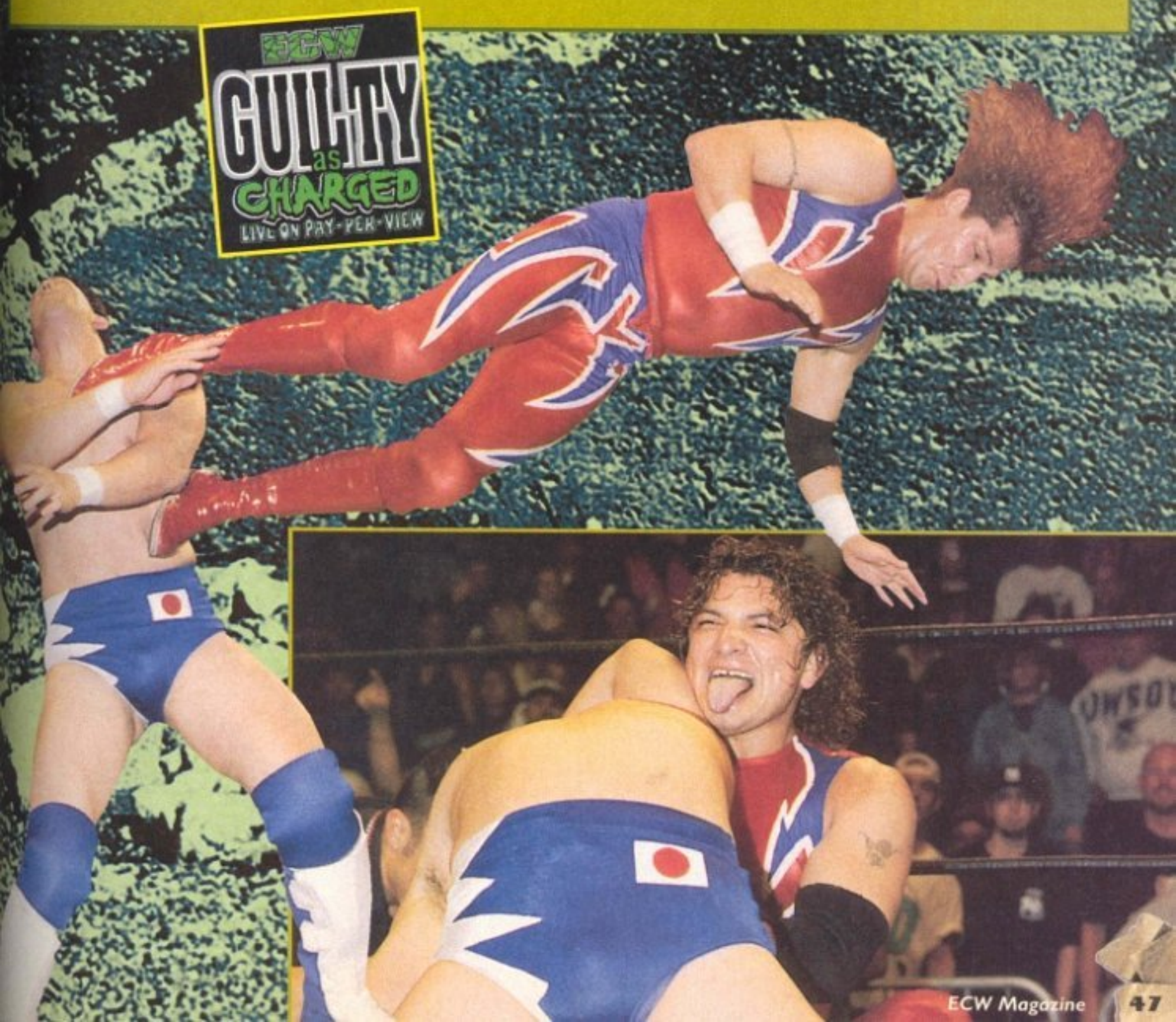


International Dream Match: Super Crazy vs. Yoshihiro Tajiri

The Action: A 5-star match all the way, with too many moves to document; the pictures will do a much better job of telling the story. These two went on to meet again at the ECW Arena for television and were scheduled to pair off at the March 21, 1999, Pay Per View. It will be most interesting to see how these two up-and-comers integrate into the rest of the ECW talent roster. There's certainly the potential there for some fantastic matches.

The fans were extremely enthusiastic through most of the match. At one point in the match, Tajiri locked in an impressive tarantula. These two men's abilities were clearly on display during this match. It may take the fans time to get used to them, but they will. It seems that Crazy and Tajiri both have long careers in the ECW ahead of them.

The Finish: Tajiri got the win at the 11:38 mark with a well-executed dragon-suplex.

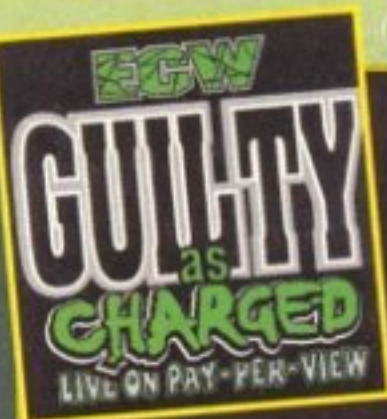


John Kronus vs. Sid

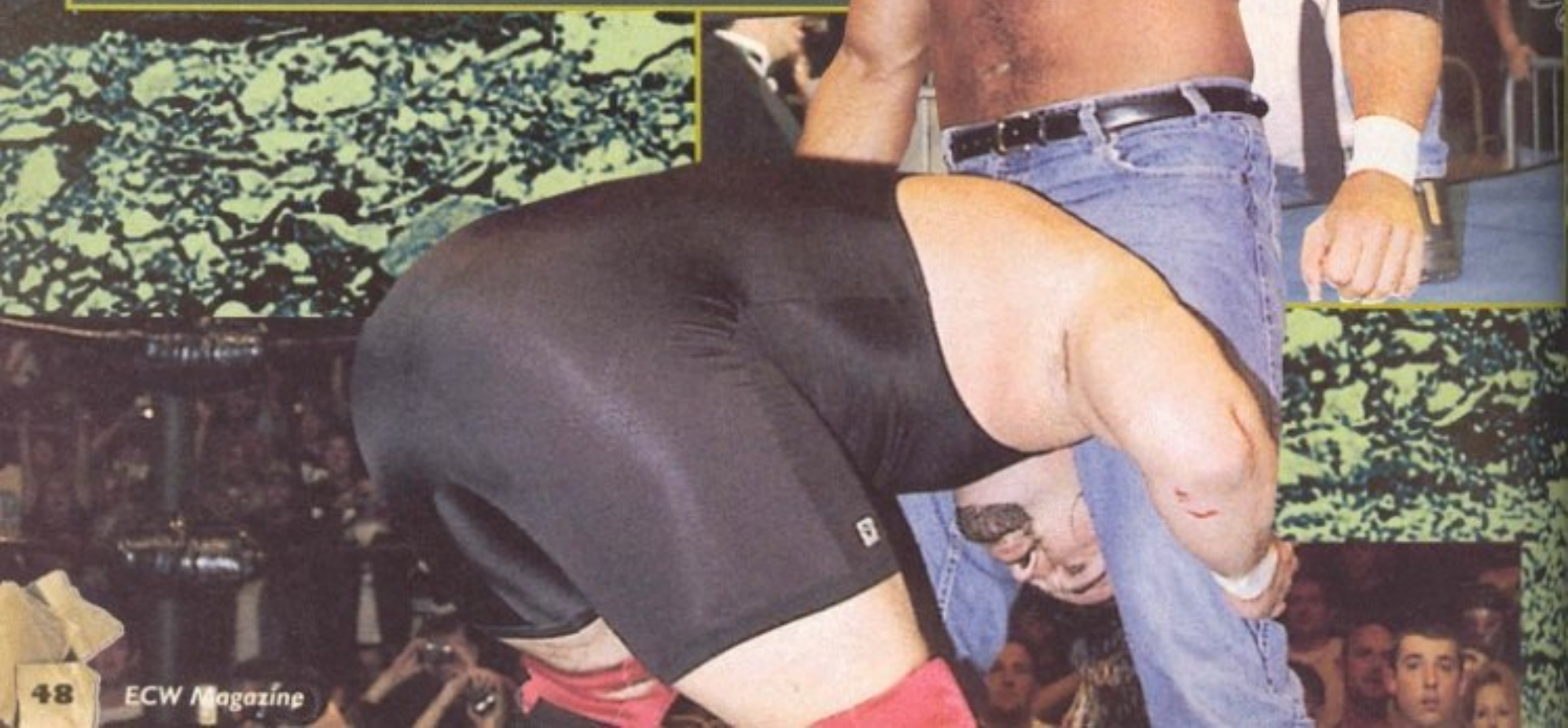
The Action: Ex-eliminator John Kronus made his way to the ring, continuing his slide into mental instability that was hinted at before Saturn left the company for WCW. Former referee Jeff Jones made his way to ringside, dressed in a judge's robe. He told Kronus that in retaliation for the attack Kronus made on Jones, Jones would be judge and jury and he had a special executioner in store for Kronus. Out from the curtain stepped Sid!

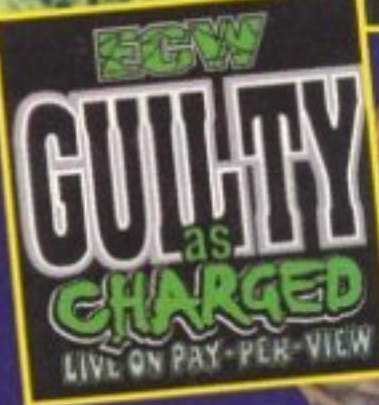
The monster that many had proclaimed a future megastar in wrestling made his first appearance in a major company since leaving the WWF in the fall of 1997. There was not much action here, however. It was over almost as soon as it began. We saw Sid issue some brutal chair shots to Kronus here, but what happens when the injury prone star has to receive those typically intense ECW bumps? One interesting aspect of Sid's return will be whether he can withstand the rigors of ECW.

The Finish: The former WWF champion made short work of Kronus, completing the squash at 1:30. He capped Kronus off with his trademark Powerbomb, one as well executed as he's ever done. If Sid sticks around a while, there's no telling what kind of damage he could do in ECW. He's extremely charismatic, never has trouble getting over with the fans, and could prove to be a major coup.



@wrestlingscene





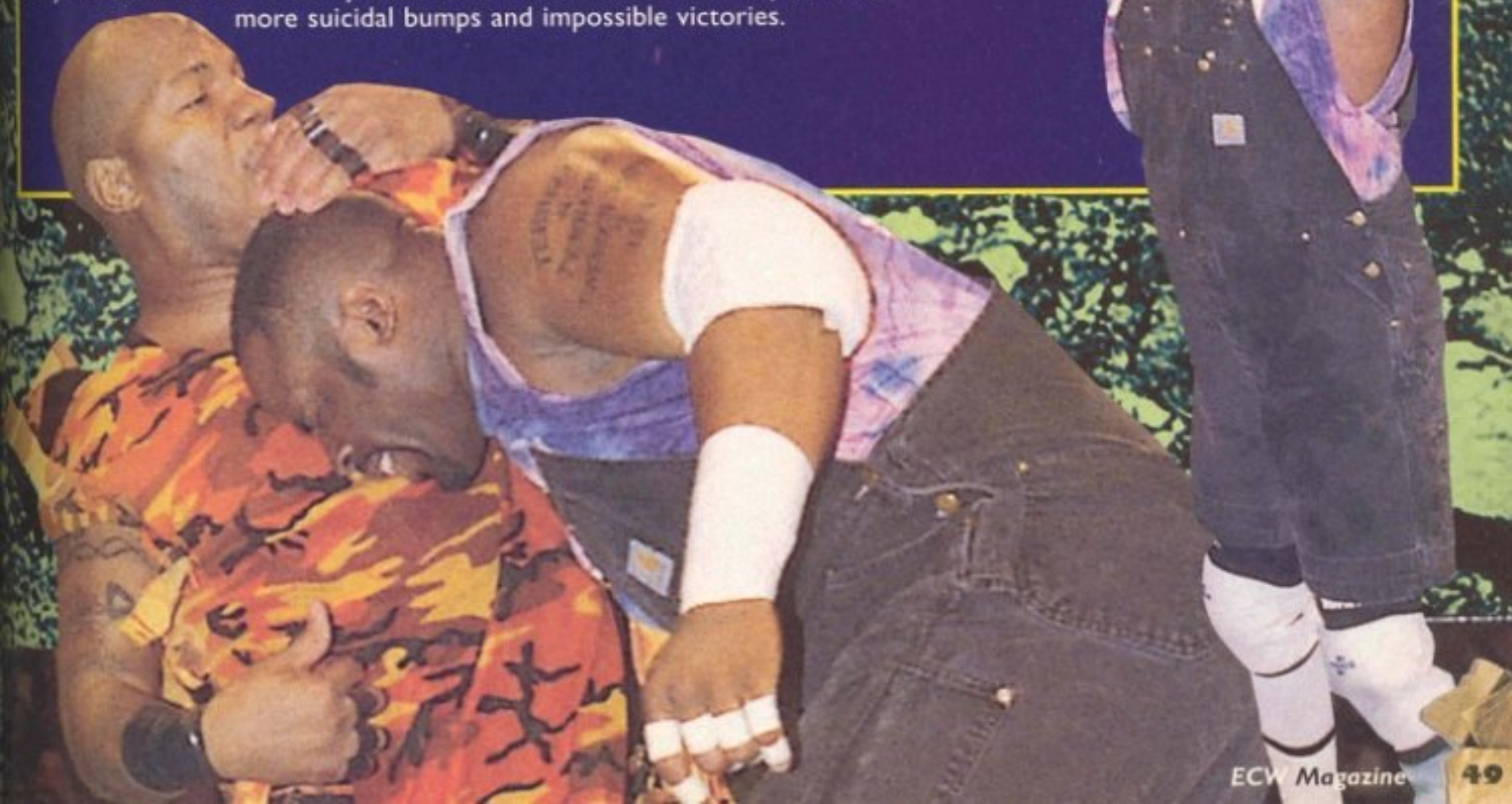
Extreme Street Fight: The Dudley Boyz vs. New Jack and Spike Dudley

The Action: Following a video package detailing the events surrounding the upcoming main event, the Dudley Boyz made their way to ringside in all their glory. Apparently to fill some airtime vacated due to injury, Joel Gertner's introduction of the Dudleys was particularly long and extra raunchy.

Buh Buh Ray acquired the microphone, following a trademark Gertner introduction. After a somewhat long-winded spiel, he declared that the Dudleys had done everything there is to do in ECW, except one thing, defeat Public Enemy. Naturally, this was to setup PE's return to ECW. Ultimately, the Public Enemy were not prepared for the stiff ECW style and ended up siding with the tamer and more showboating WWF. Following the speech, the Dudleys challenged anyone in the dressing room to come out. Gangsta music played as New Jack hits the aisle, trash can in hand. Following him was Spike Dudley.

The unadvertised match began as the typical mess that is a New Jack match. Plenty of weapons, massive blood loss, and just too much action at once for announcer Joey Styles to call. Highlights saw Spike getting tossed into the crowd much like he did at the hands of Bam Bam Bigelow. There were a couple of nice guitar shots on Big Dick. The only real mistake in the match was when the Dudleys tried the Dudley Death Drop on New Jack on the ramp, but missed the spot.

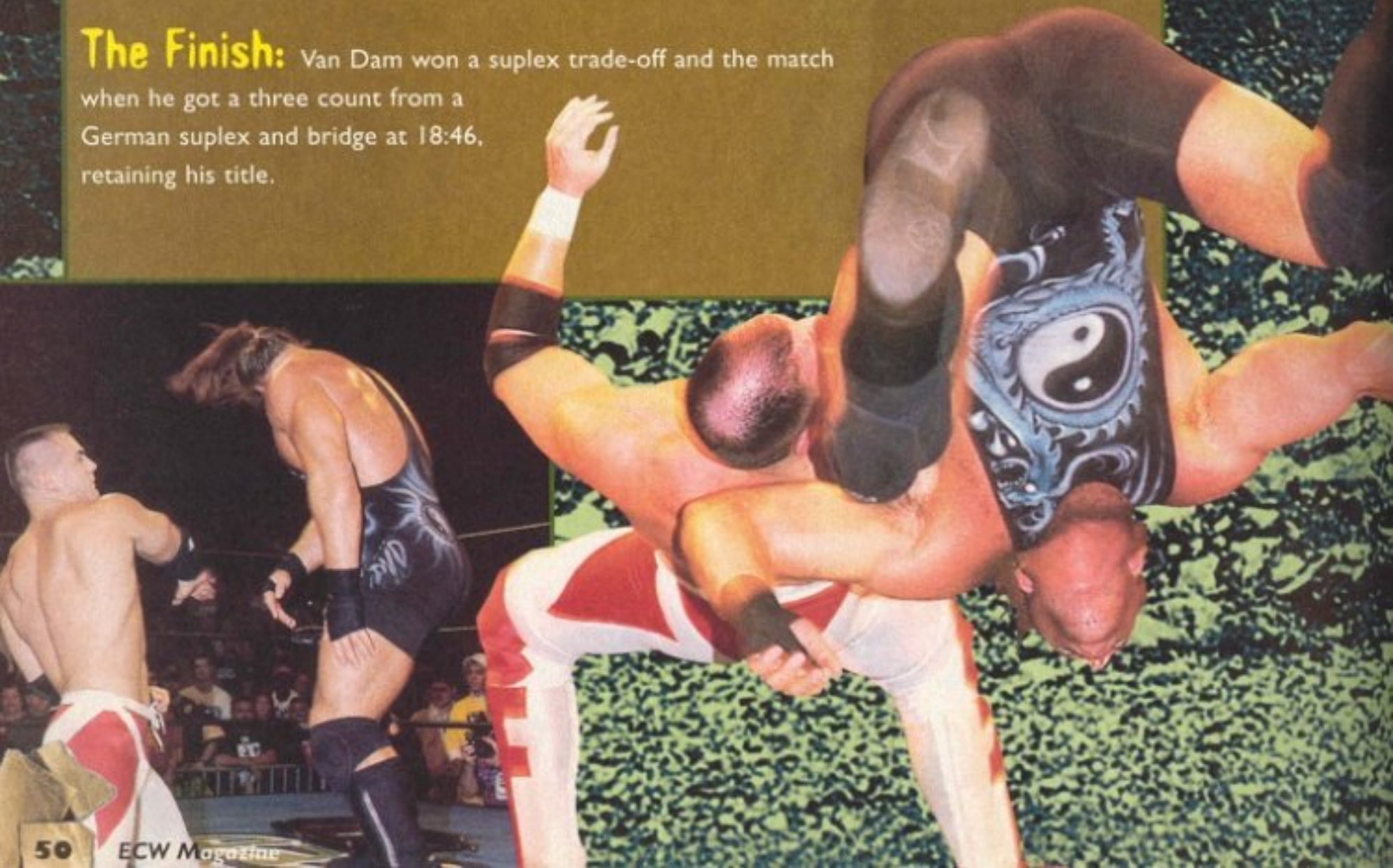
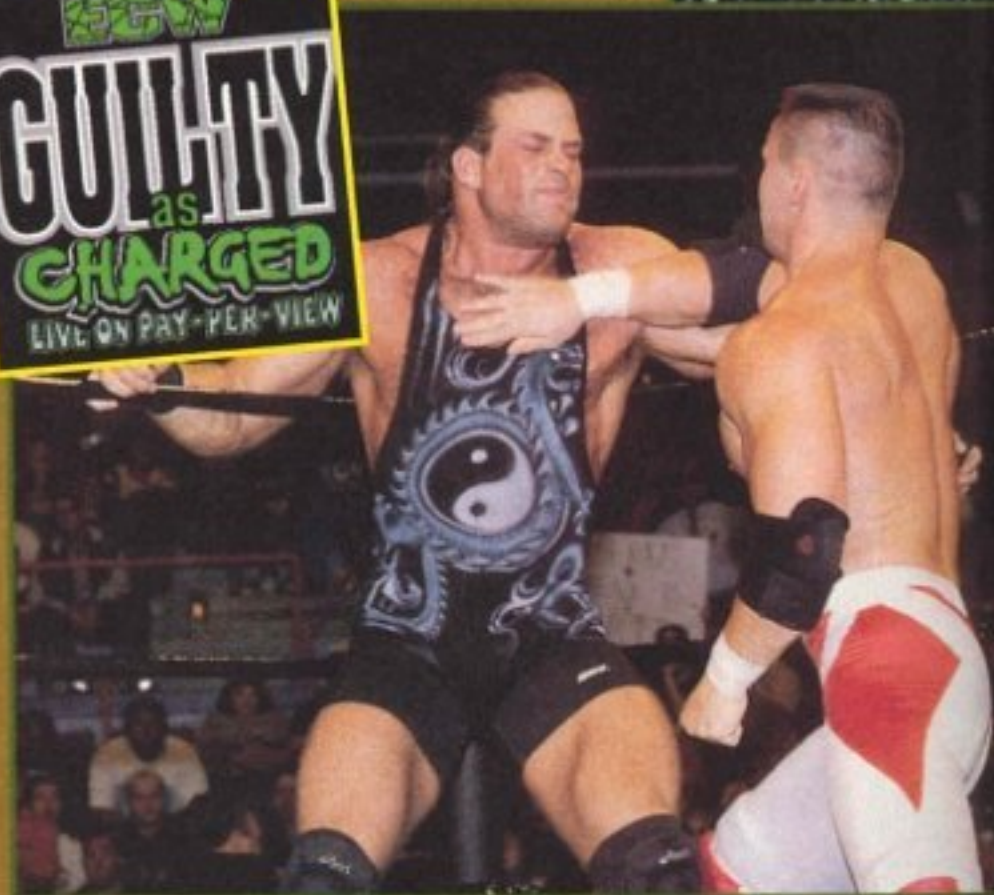
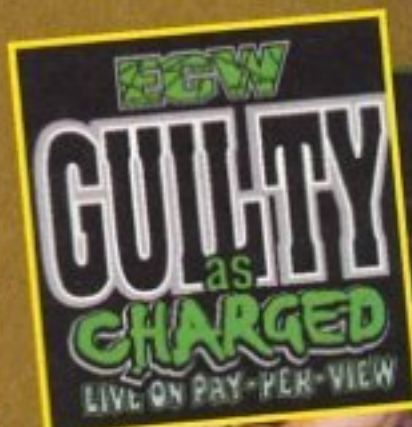
The Finish: Spike falls victim to the 3D at the 10:07 mark. "Little Sexy The Giant Killer" is finally slain, but he'll be back another day to take more suicidal bumps and impossible victories.




World Television Title Match: Rob Van Dam (c) defending against Lance Storm

The Action: The match became a game of "who can outdo the other." The match saw plenty of high impact and high-flying moves, winding up on the floor and in the crowd on more than one occasion. Some spots appeared to leave the combatants stunned. At one point in the match, Bill Alfonso attempted to attack Storm's valet, Tammy Lynn Bytch. Storm raced to stop him, although Bytch probably could have handled the scrawny Alfonso herself. The ref went down when accidentally hit by Rob Van Dam's finisher, the "Van Daminator". Storm took advantage of the mistake to use the same finisher on Van Dam himself. Alfonso attempted a chair shot on Storm, but Storm grabbed the chair from him. Before Storm could use the weapon, he was hit by the Van Daminator, but the recovering referee only counted to two.

The Finish: Van Dam won a suplex trade-off and the match when he got a three count from a German suplex and bridge at 18:46, retaining his title.





ECW
GUILTY as
CHARGED
LIVE ON PAY-PER-VIEW

Stairway to Hell Match: Tommy Dreamer vs. Justin Credible

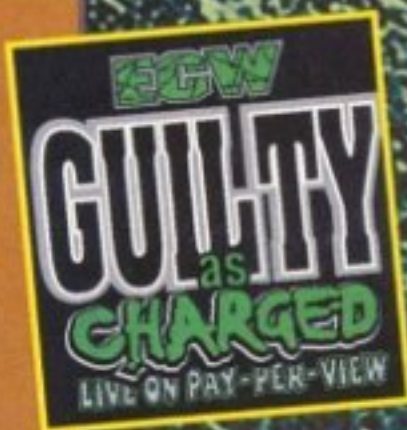
The Action: Justin Credible hit the ring, posse in tow, sans Terry Funk. The match began with a lot of stiff spots and brawling. The highlight of the match came about 10 minutes in when Dreamer introduced a second ladder into the mix. The two climbed up the side-by-side ladders, nearing the cane, when Credible attempted to move to Dreamer's ladder, but was caught by Dreamer while still straddling both ladders. Dreamer made him pay for the mistake with a "dream cutter," off the two ladders Dreamer eventually reached the cane first, then had Credible setup for a good whipping, but Funk emerged on the ramp and made a Tommy Dreamer-shaped dent in the side of a trash can. Justin then grabbed the cane and went to town on Dreamer, topping it off with his finisher, "That's Incredible" on a ladder.

The Finish: "That's Incredible" by Credible on a ladder, three count moments later at the 18:40 mark.

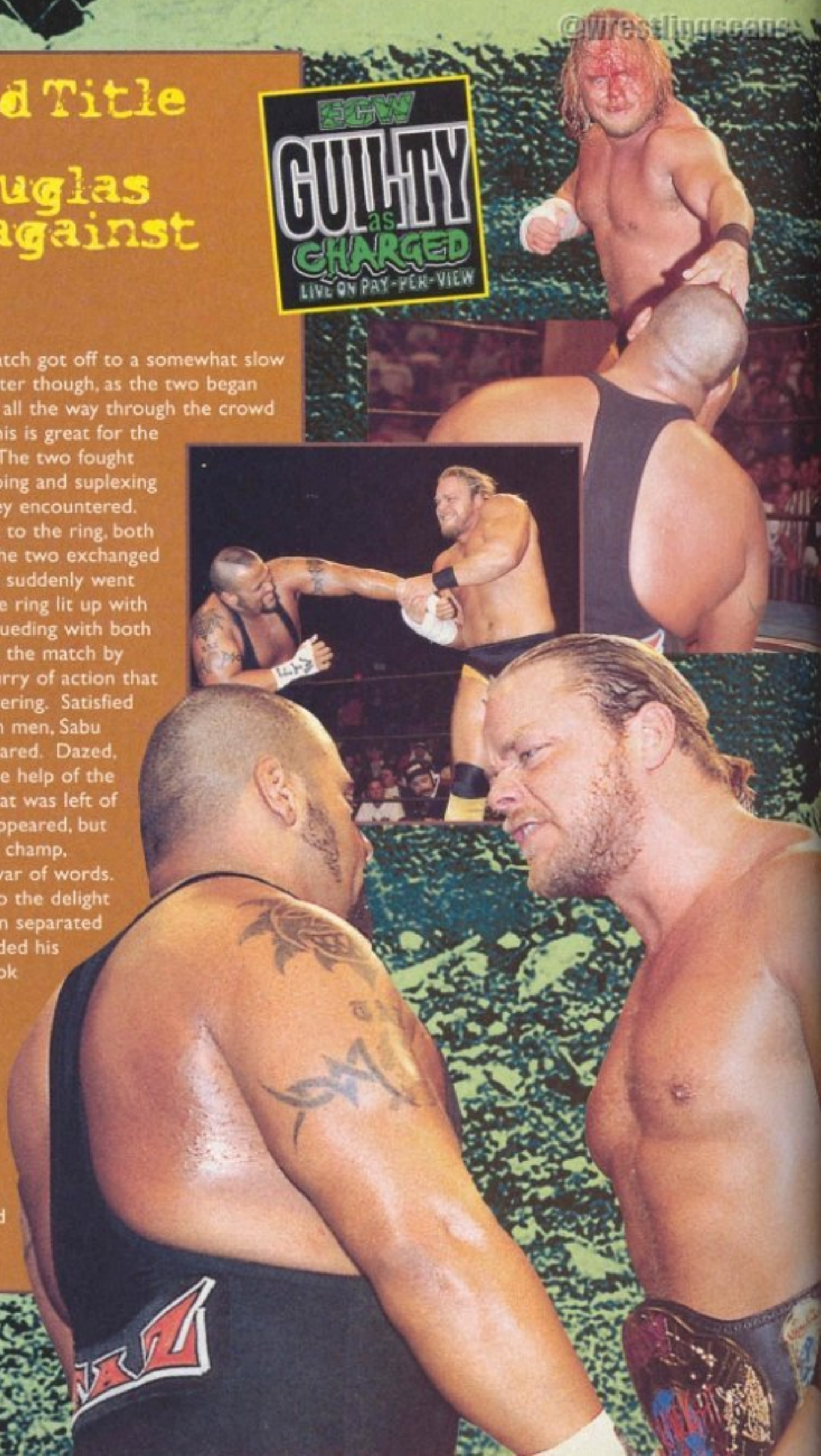
ECW World Title Match: Shane Douglas defends against Taz

The Action: The match got off to a somewhat slow start. The pace picked up later though, as the two began the ECW staple of brawling all the way through the crowd to the back of the arena. This is great for the fan's sense of involvement. The two fought their way to the back, whipping and suplexing each other into anything they encountered. Before finally making it back to the ring, both men were bleeding badly. The two exchanged table shots before the lights suddenly went out. The entranceway to the ring lit up with pyro, and Sabu appeared. Fueling with both participants, Sabu electrified the match by destroying both men in a flurry of action that only Sabu is capable of delivering. Satisfied with the devastation of both men, Sabu exited as quickly as he appeared. Dazed, Douglas began to call for the help of the Triple Threat, or at least what was left of them. Candido and Sytch appeared, but instead of helping the ECW champ, Candido engaged him in a war of words. The women followed suit, to the delight of the crowd. After the men separated the women, Candido discarded his Triple Threat t-shirt, and took Sytch and left.

The Finish: Upset and distracted, Douglas fell victim to Taz's kati hajime. Locked in the hold with nowhere to go, Douglas passed out rather than tap out, and the referee awarded the match, and the world title, to Taz.



@wrestlingseans



BUMPS

by Donny Laible

At the corner of Swanson and Ritner streets in south Philadelphia, the last bastion of American wrestling's promotional independence and individual identity, stands Extreme Championship Wrestling Arena, a part-time bingo hall to some – a mecca to many.

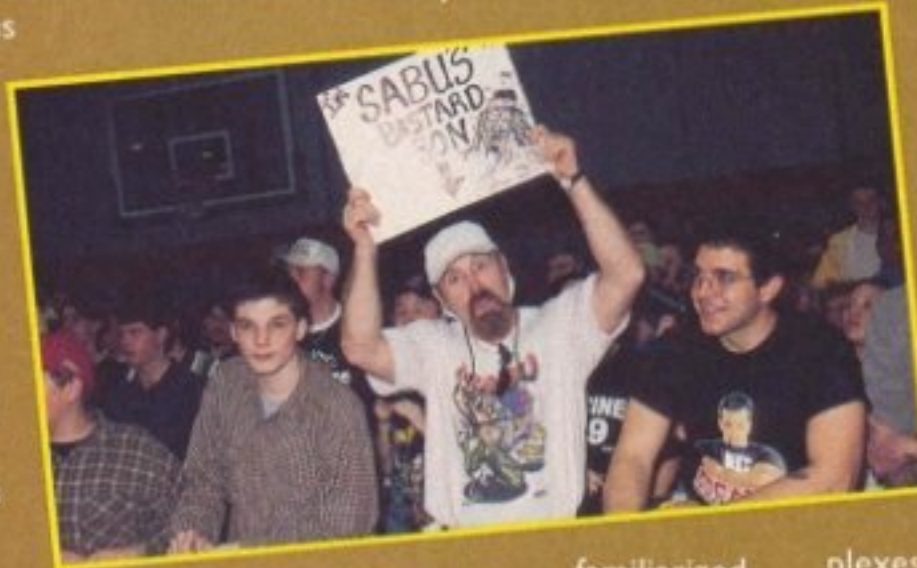
In an era where cozy stadiums and character-rich arenas and auditoriums have met unfriendly introductions to wrecking balls and replacement by cement bunkers passed off as more versatile multi-purpose facilities, wrestling, particularly in the 1980s, wasn't spared from the spread of capitalism's hand of demolition. Chicago's Wrigley Field, in all its glory and outfield ivy, and Boston's athletically-charming Fenway Park, baseball's last green cathedrals, represent the few stadiums that have gained a temporary reprieve from disassembly.

Wrestling had its glory days in places like Dallas' Sportatorium. The pre-Vince McMahon Jr.-ruled World Wrestling Federation, before another W was struck from its World Wide Wrestling Federation time in grappling lore, presented weekly Friday night cards Boston's outer most shadows in a barn-like hall in a middle of nowhere town called North Attleboro, Mass. West Coast wrestling fans had their own house of champions, Los Angeles' Olympic Auditorium, where every Wednesday night in the 1970s, the best of the LeBelle promotional family's National Wrestling Alliance "boys" fought.

As the wrestling business has changed, and in many incidences, pulled a David Copperfield in dozens of

regions, ECW Arena remains a temple to a style of hardcore that is almost a religion to its following. And there have been few, if any, suggestions to move out of the home field by its players or fans.

To fully understand ECW, its physically conscience-less ring warfare ethic, and the kinship shared with its, at times highly critical and always demanding, fan base, is to appreciate its arena. It is the fans who have unconditionally



familiarized themselves with the Arena's drab colored walls and rickety bleachers.

Other than constructing new sets of wooden seating that would surely make Wrigley patrons smile in envy, there has been no meaningful overhaul architecturally to one of the country's most famed Bingo halls. And why should there be? Sticking to that timeless and tired adage of not fixing what isn't broke, any significant "improvements" could backfire and turn off hardcore spirits more than turning on any new emotions.

Over the past year, with ECW boss Paul E. Heyman spreading his business wings to new markets, the company has had less time to spend at home. In expansion, going on the road is a necessary evil. But no other promotion has attempted or most likely will attempt to capitalize on vacant days at the Arena.

Going to an evening of ECW and witnessing the wrestling action with chairs, tables and other assorted pieces of furniture subbing for foreign objects utilized by the players from a generation ago in the Arena is an event.

There's a family attitude among the 1,800 or more strangers who converge on their mecca at every Arena presentation. Signs declaring supremacy to the building's home security force, to familiar faces like the fellow dressed in his straw hat and Hawaiian shirt who has occupied the front row for years now, are the norm.

It's no secret to the average wrestling fan that other promotional offices, particularly McMahon's circus of the bizarre and World Championship

Wrestling, have in many instances attempted and continue to attempt to copy and capitalize on ECW's tug-of-war with nuts and bolts and chain saw attitude – and have met with failure. Talent has been raided, but neither company has expressed interest or could come down from their corporate boardroom mentality long enough to give it their best shot at recreating their own home field.

There are no domes, metroplexes, gardens or palaces in ECW's foreseeable booking future. But that doesn't matter. ECW Arena represents a totally non-artificial environment. The WWF and WCW, by choice and necessity, have suburbanized. The very building and neighborhood engulfing the Arena precludes such a policy spreading ECW.

Arena fans have ferociously sat in on fantastically fought battles dating back to when names such as "Hotstuff," "Superfly," and "Dirty Dick" hurled bodies and foul words in a far emptier but equally as special home field in 1993. Now, Taz, Sabu, Van Dam, Dreamer and New Jack lead the ECW troop back home after weeks and months at a time from often unforgiving road trips.

Modernize? Change ECW's emotional and morally comfortable address? Fuhgeddaboutit! **ecw**

The Franchise Forum

HARDCORE TO THE BONE(S)

This is the revolution of an industry. This is chaos and violence and mayhem. This is the sport of professional wrestling. This...is Extreme Championship Wrestling! I

am the Franchise of ECW, Shane Douglas – the leader of the revolution. For six years, I have wrestled for ECW and I have suffered the expected effects of over 2,000 days in the “trenches,” the rings of the

world of extreme. Why?

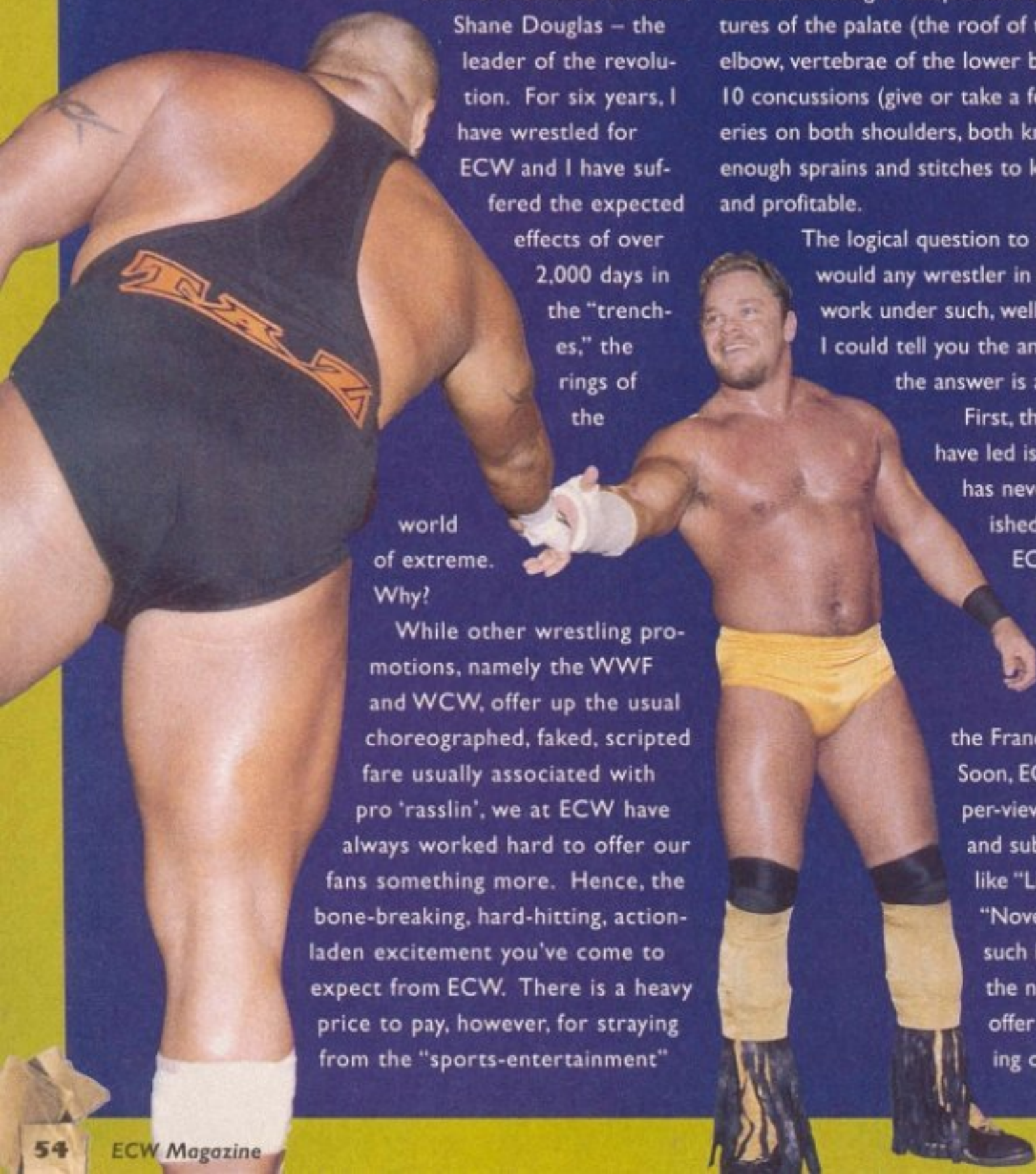
While other wrestling promotions, namely the WWF and WCW, offer up the usual choreographed, faked, scripted fare usually associated with pro ‘rasslin’, we at ECW have always worked hard to offer our fans something more. Hence, the bone-breaking, hard-hitting, action-laden excitement you’ve come to expect from ECW. There is a heavy price to pay, however, for straying from the “sports-entertainment”

equation – INJURY!

In the past six years, I have suffered a litany of injuries that most wrestlers don’t suffer in an entire career: 21 broken bones, including a compound fracture of the wrist, and fractures of the palate (the roof of the mouth), cheekbone, nose, elbow, vertebrae of the lower back, foot, ankle, and fingers; 10 concussions (give or take a few – I can’t quite recall!); surgeries on both shoulders, both knees, and my elbow; and enough sprains and stitches to keep an emergency room busy and profitable.

The logical question to ask at this point is, “Why would any wrestler in his right mind continue to work under such, well, extreme conditions?” I wish I could tell you the answer was simple. However, the answer is as complex as I am.

First, the revolution that I started and have led is still growing. The Franchise has never walked away from an unfinished task. Our critics once said ECW would never make it to the wrestling nirvana known as pay-per-view. It appeared as though those critics were going to be right until...until the Franchise returned from the WWF. Soon, ECW was televising its first pay-per-view, known as “Barely Legal.” It, and subsequent ECW pay-per-views like “Living Dangerously” and “November to Remember” were such hits that we’ve had to increase the number of pay-per-views we offer to six per year. Still, the building of ECW into a world-class



organization was incomplete.

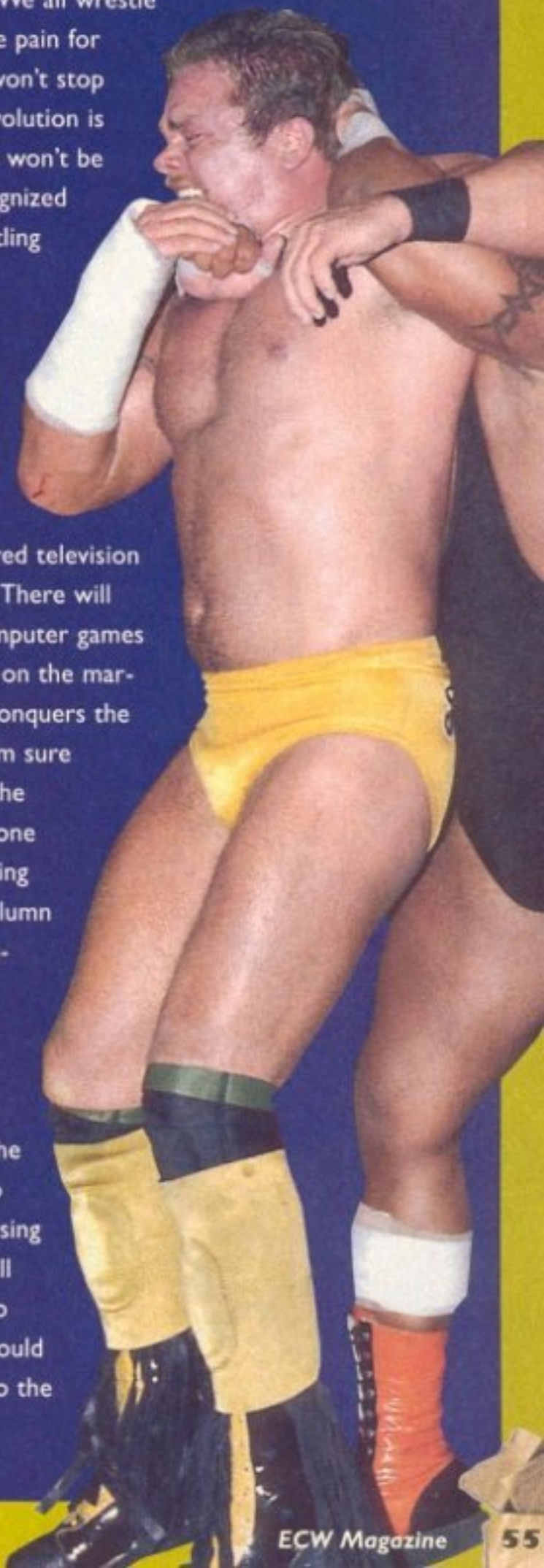
When we started ECW in 1993, we were seen by our critics as a small, regional company. They were right! At that time, ECW was known as Eastern Championship Wrestling and was seen in only one city—Philadelphia—on one TV station. Our stable of wrestlers was young and untested. Once again, ECW officials looked to me, their Franchise. I was scheduled to wrestle in the sport's first-ever 3-way Dance between me, Terry Funk, and the young Sabu. The fans had no idea what to expect from a legend (Funk), a Franchise (yours truly), and a phenomenon-to-be (Sabu). The show was called "The Night the Line was Crossed." The match went to a 1-hour time limit, meaning there was no winner. That is, unless you count the fans present in the ECW Arena. That night, they witnessed ECW's first great match. They also saw history in the making, as never before had three wrestlers entered the ring at the same time to wrestle a 3-way contest, and one that went to a 60 minute draw. The 3-Way Dance has since been copied by both the WWF and the WCW (pretty unoriginal, huh?!). At the conclusion of the match, the sold-out crowd stood in ovation to not only me, Funk and Sabu, but also to ECW, a company that had clearly arrived.

Success you say? Not just yet! We were still seen as a regional company and that was something I, as ECW's Franchise, could never accept. Fast forward to August 1994. The National Wrestling Alliance (NWA) was holding a tournament to crown a new world heavyweight champion. Winning this tournament would prove difficult, even for a Franchise. In the first round, I drew Taz (the Human Suplex Machine). In the second round, I was paired against WCW great Dean Malenko (currently a member of the Four Horsemen). In the Final, I was pitted against Too Cold Scorpio. All of these men were, and are, world-class athletes. Anyone would consider a victory over any one of them a huge success. On that night, I rose to the challenge for ECW and defeated all three to become the NWA World Heavyweight Champion. A dream come true? NOT! I've always regarded myself as ECW's own – not the NWA's. What to do? What only a Franchise could do...throw down the title I'd just won and raise the Eastern Championship Wrestling Heavyweight Belt and declare it the new Extreme Championship Wrestling World Heavyweight Title. Yes, I made ECW Extreme and I made its regional title a world-recognized title. It's a belt I've held on three occasions and have

been called the greatest ECW World Heavyweight Champion of all time. On Jan. 10, 1999, I lost that belt to Taz and, so, there remains some unfinished business for me. I want to regain my belt, THE belt, ECW's World Heavyweight Title.

These are the many reasons that injuries take a back seat. One is the challenge! The challenge to take ECW higher, bigger and stronger. We all wrestle through the severe pain for that reason. We won't stop until the ECW revolution is complete and that won't be until ECW is recognized as the No. 1 wrestling company in the United States.

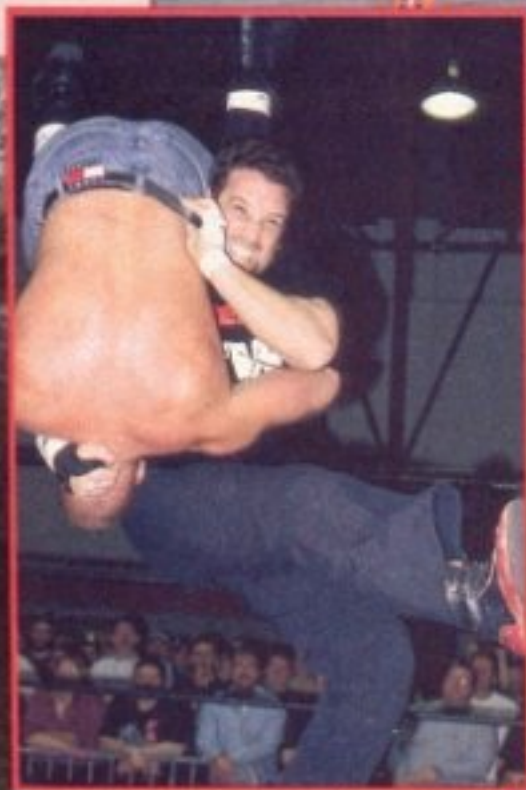
The magazine you are reading is another step in the revolution. To date, ECW has conquered television and pay-per-view. There will soon be ECW computer games and action figures on the market. Now, ECW conquers the print medium. I am sure you'll agree with the Franchise: This is one kick-ass, eye-popping magazine. This column will also be revolutionary. In each issue, I will take you where no fan has gone before – inside the life of the Franchise and into the rings and dressing rooms of ECW. I'll take you where no other magazine would dare venture... into the world of the Franchise.



TAZ CHALLENGES WCW AND WWF CHAMPIONS

Extreme Championship Wrestling World Champion Taz, who defeated "The Franchise" Shane Douglas at "November to Remember," has made an extreme challenge to the WWF and WCW! Coming off two victories over the man Joey Styles calls the greatest ECW champion of all time, Taz has publicly dared the WWF and WCW world champions ("The Rock" and "Hollywood" Hogan at press time) to get in the ring with him! Though physically smaller than both men, there is no doubt that Taz's

youth, power and attitude will come in to play, and that his awesome array of suplexes are ample fire-power to put away both champions in a heartbeat in a one-on-one scenario. Stay tuned for more details!



SID ENTERS ECW!

Former WWF Heavyweight champion Sid has hit ECW! Rumors had the 315-pound Sid (Sidney Eudy) going to any one of the big feds (WWF/WCW/ECW) in 1998, but the time for the two time former WWF World Heavyweight champion to make his return to a major promotion didn't come until ECW's Living

Dangerously PPV in January 1999. He was last spotted in the Memphis-based "Power Pro Wrestling," where he dominated competition for several months at the end of 1998.

Sid, 39, is without a doubt one of the most charismatic and popular wrestlers in wrestling history. In ECW, he hears nothing

but rabid support for his own brand of extreme violence! Feeding off the support of blood-thirsty fans and armed with his infamous Powerbomb, Chokeslam, and a new "Extreme" Chokeslam through a table, Sid has destroyed all competition since entering the company. At the PPV, it took him only 90 seconds to put away former tag team champion John Kronus. On Feb. 5, the world witnessed "Psycho" Sid mercilessly demolish Amish Road Kill and Chris Chetti singlehandedly.

With the recent losses of such stars as Mikey Whipwreck, Sandman and Bam Bam Bigelow, ECW may have lost some talent, but with the addition of new talents Tajiri and Super Crazy, along with perhaps ECW's biggest acquisition yet in Sid, the future looks bright for fans of extreme!



TOMMY DREAMER SWEARS REVENGE ON LANCE STORM

Dawn Marie is at it again. This time, from "Tammy Lynn Bytch" to "Beulah McGillicuty." Beulah has long since left ECW, and Tommy Dreamer's side, since the Dudley Boyz ran her out of town with a neck injury. That hasn't stopped Dawn Marie, a self-professed "Bytch" from stealing her identity and, in the process, severely pissing off Tommy. Now the Innovator of Violence has sworn revenge on Lance Storm, who naturally sees nothing wrong with his manager's antics. This one is only going to get hotter, look for the two to go one on one in May 1999!

DOUGLAS ALMOST RETIRES!

"DieHard" Derek Gordon reporting from Elks Lodge, Friday, February 12, 1999

On this Friday night at the ECW house show at the Elks Lodge in New York City, Shane Douglas walked into the ring in street clothes and holding his wrestling boots in his hands, he and a misty-eyed Francine thanked the fans for the career and "revolution" they helped create over the last years. During his speech, he continued to show his appreciation and was about to pass the torch to the man he believed should be the new "franchise" of ECW.

Before the announcement, however, he was interrupted by Justin Credible, who quickly proclaimed himself the only ECW hardcore icon and true "franchise" of the company. His proclamation didn't last long, as Justin was interrupted by Lance Storm. Lance used his mic time to persuade the crowd that he was the greatest wrestler that ECW had ever seen, and that he would proceed as the "franchise" of the organization.

An outraged Douglas confronted the two men and rained on their parade by telling them the only person he had in mind was Tommy Dreamer. Credible and Storm began to brutally attack both Douglas and Francine, until the Innovator Of Violence hit the scene to make the save.

Also on Feb. 12, Original Gangsta member Mustafa made his return to ECW. After what was thought to be a celebrated welcome back, Mustafa brutally attacked his former partner, New Jack, as he joined the Dudley Family and proclaimed himself their secret benefactor. Before the short lived reunion of the Gangstas, the Dudley Boys made a shocking announcement during their "preaching time."

Apparently, a match was originally scheduled to pit the Dudleys against The Public Enemy. But at the Elks Lodge, Buh Buh Ray was quick to spill the beans that the Public Enemy had called ECW owner Paul Heyman on the telephone and complained on the record about how stiff, brutal and violent the Dudley Boyz are in the ring. Buh Buh and D-Von also informed the crowd that the Public Enemy refused to appear against the Dudley Boyz unless Heyman promised them the Dudleys would take it easy on them. Not opting to prostitute the hardcore vision for ECW, Heyman signed the rights to the Public Enemy's name, likeness and contracts over to Vince McMahon and the WWF, figuring it would be easier for them to collect a paycheck mulling around the WWF than having to earn one in the hardcore world of Extreme Championship Wrestling.



FRANCINE IS ECW FOR LIFE!

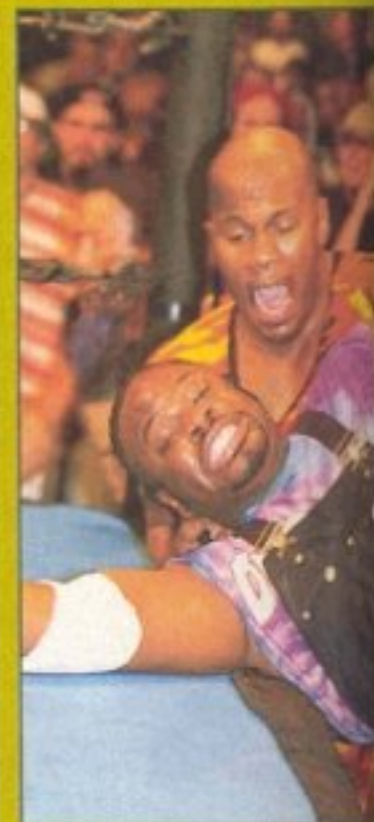
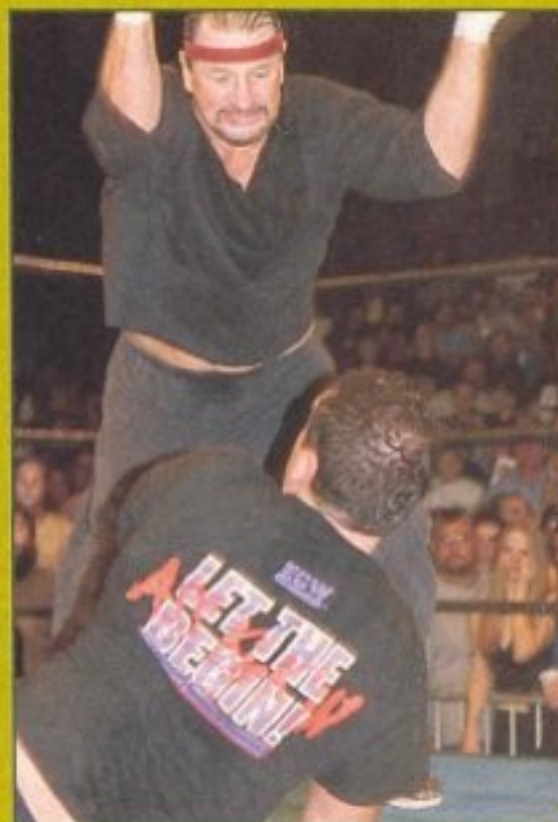
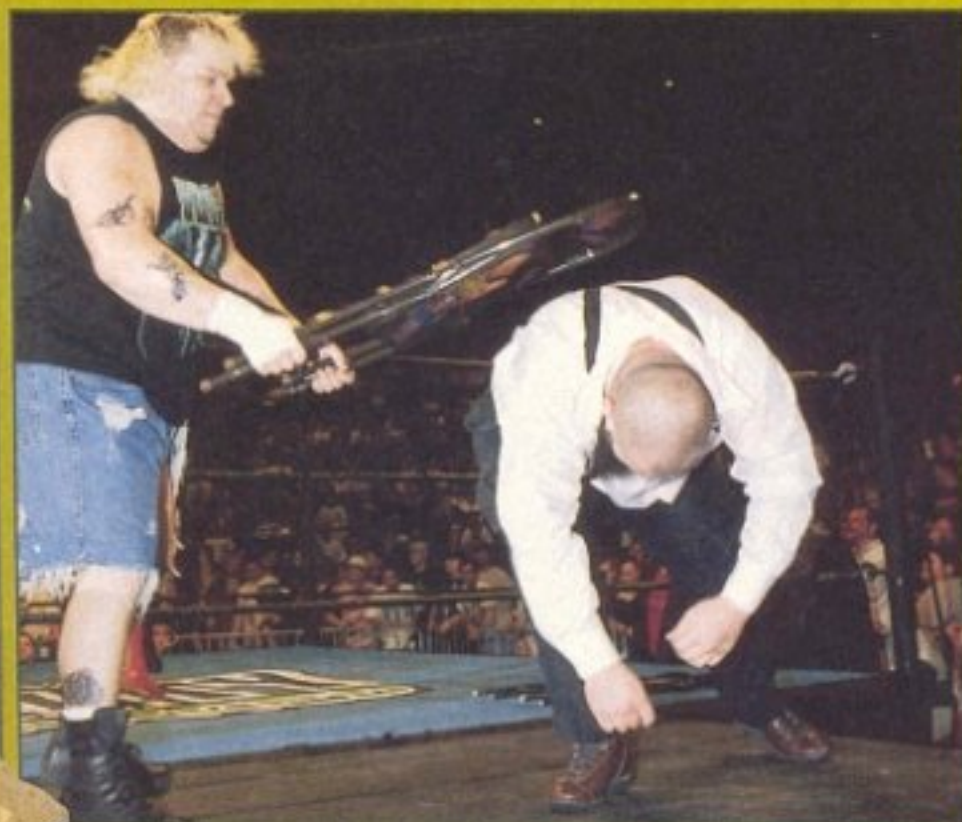
There have been questions lately as to whether Francine, particularly with the rumored retirement of Shane Douglas, is destined to go down the same path - but she has no intention of leaving the company, said the lady herself to us recently.

"I've been with ECW 5 years now and have no plans of going anywhere, even if Shane Douglas were to leave," said an earnest Francine. "Paul Heyman has been too good to me and since he gave me my first break, my loyalty is with him and ECW!"



ECW Calendar of Events

Thursday	April 1	AG Hall	Allentown, Penn.
Friday	April 2	Edison Convention and Expo Center	Edison, N.J.
Saturday	April 3	ECW Arena	Philadelphia
Friday	April 9	Palladium	Worcester, Mass.
Saturday	April 10	Location TBA	Boston
Sunday	April 11	Memorial Hall	Plymouth, Mass.
Thursday	April 15	David Lawrence Center	Pittsburgh
Friday	April 16	TBA	TBA
Saturday	April 17	Flickenger Athletic Center	Buffalo, N.Y.
Friday	April 23	St. Mary's High School	South Amboy, N.J.
Saturday	April 24	Queens Elks Lodge	Queens, N.Y.
Thursday	April 29	Manatee Civic Center	Sarasota, Fla.
Friday	April 30	War Memorial	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Saturday	May 1	Cocoa Expo Sports Center	Cocoa Beach, Fla.
Sunday	May 2	Millennium Theatre	Kissimmee, Fla.
Friday	May 7	York Expo Center	York, Penn.
Saturday	May 8	ECW Arena	Philadelphia
Sunday	May 16	PPV - Location TBA	TBA
Thursday	May 20	Lansing Center	Lansing, Mich.
Friday	May 21	Grand Rapids Center	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Saturday	May 22	Coliseum	Detroit
Friday	May 28	TBA	TBA
Saturday	May 29	TBA	TBA
Sunday	May 30	TBA	TBA



National Weekly Line-Up

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America One Network	Check Local Listings
USSB Satellite	Channel 905
USSB Satellite	Channel 905
USSB Satellite	Channel 905
Albany, GA	WRKL-TV 35
Atlanta, GA	WATL TV 36
Atlantic City/Wildwood, NJ	WWAC TV53
Baton Rouge, LA	WGMB-TV / Fox 44
Baton Rouge, LA	WGMB-TV / Fox 44
Boston, MA	WUNI-TV 27
Burlington / Plattsburgh	WBVT-TV 39
Carbondale, IL	SPC-TV
Carbondale, IL	SPC-TV
Chicago, IL	WJYS-TV 62
Cincinnati, OH	W25 AI
Columbus, GA	UA16
Columbus, GA	UA16
Columbus, OH	WLWG 62
Dayton, OH	WUCT-TV 51
Dayton, OH	WUCT-TV 51
Detroit, MI	WADL-TV 38
Florida	Sunshine Network
Fresno, CA	KGMC-TV 43
Hampton, VA	WPEN-TV
Indianapolis, IN	WAV-TV 53
Indianapolis, IN	WAV-TV53
Las Vegas, NV	KCNG-TV/UPN25
Long Island, NY	WVH-TV 10
Louisville, KY	WBNA-TV 21
Memphis, TN	WBII TV20
Montgomery / Selma	WAXC-TV 64
Murray, KY	WQTV-TV 46
New Jersey	CTN
New Orleans, LA	WUPL-TV / UPN 51
New York (Upstate)	Empire Sports Network
New York (Upstate)	Empire Sports Network
New York City	Madison Square Garden
Orlando, FL	WRBW-TV / UPN 65
Philadelphia, PA	WGTW-TV 48
Philadelphia, PA	WGTW-TV 48
Pittsburgh, PA	WNPA-TV 19
Twin Falls, ID	KKHM-TV 55
Washington D.C.	Media Gen. Cable Ch.51

Saturday

Saturday

Sunday

Thursday

Saturday

Saturday

Saturday

Friday

[Replay Wednesday]

Saturday

Saturday

Friday

Tuesday

Friday

Monday

Saturday

Wednesday (replay)

Thursday

Saturday

[Replay Sunday]

Thursday

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Tuesday

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Friday

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Monday

Saturday

Saturday

Friday

Friday or Saturday

[Replay Sunday]

Saturday

Friday

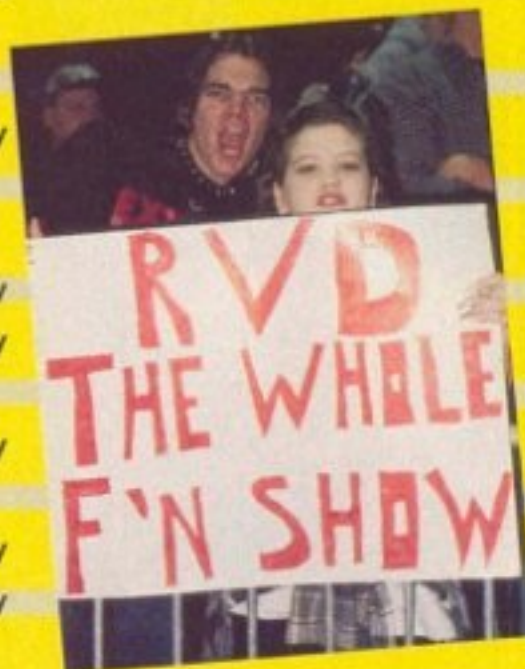
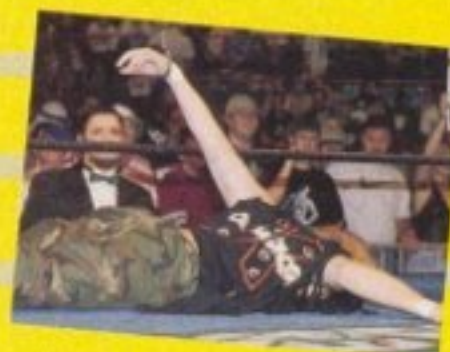
Friday

Saturday (replay)

Saturday

Saturday

Tuesday



12:00 AM Eastern

11:00 PM Eastern

6:00 PM Eastern

7:00 PM Eastern

9:00 PM Eastern

1:00 AM Eastern

9:00 PM Eastern

12:30 AM Central

4:00 AM Central

12:30 AM Eastern

1:00 AM Eastern

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7:00 PM Central

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2:00 AM Eastern

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9:00 PM Eastern

11:00 PM Eastern

11:00 AM Mountain

6:00 PM Eastern

Taz

5'10"

248 lbs.

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Nickname:

The Human Suplex Machine

Titles:

ECW World Heavyweight Championship; ECW World TV Championship; ECW World Tag Team Title with Sabu; FTW World Title.

Taz: one name says it all. The "Human Suplex Machine" is, by far, one of the most feared men in ECW, if not in the entire sport. Taz doesn't know the meaning of the word "quit". More often than not, his opponents "tap out" when Taz clamps them in his pet finishing move, the Kati Hajime. At present, Taz is stuck in the middle of a life-and-death struggle with his long time rival Sabu, as well as former ECW Heavyweight champion Shane Douglas, from whom Taz won the World belt.



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Sid

6'8"

318 lbs.

West Memphis, Ark.

Nickname:

"Psycho" Sid

AKA:

Sid Vicious, Sid

Justice

Titles Held:

WWF Heavyweight
Title

Sid is as big as and as mean as they come. In his career he's been both booed and cheered. But whether you like him or not, no one can deny that Sid possesses that raw, animal magnetism that can drive the fans wild. However, as big as he is, Sid has yet to find a way to harness his tremendous power. If someone, anyone, can somehow get to the man, he would be invincible, but so far Sid remains an enigma. But it is this mystique that makes Sid perfect for the wild and crazy world of ECW.

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Shane Douglas

6'
255 lbs.
Pittsburgh, Penn.

Nickname:

The Franchise

Titles Held:

ECW World Heavyweight Title; ECW World TV Title; WWF Intercontinental Championship; WCW World Tag Team title with Ricky Steamboat, NWA World Heavyweight Title, UWF TV Title.

"The Franchise" is a three-time ECW World Heavyweight champion. But ever since he injured his elbow at the hands of Taz, Douglas has spent more time behind the microphone than he does in the ring. He has even hinted that he is ready to retire from the sport. However, in the middle of his emotional retirement speech at the Elk's Lodge in Queens, N.Y.C., which was broadcast on the ECW program worldwide, Douglas was savagely attacked by Justin Credible and Lance Storm. Their attack not only left Douglas lying in the middle of the ring, but also injured Douglas' head cheerleader, Francine. From this savage beating, one has to feel that Douglas has at least one more good fight left in him.



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Sabu

6'

220 lbs.

Bombay, India

Nickname:

The Lord of the
Hardcores

Titles Held:

ECW World
Championship; ECW
World Tag Team
Championship (twice)
with Taz and Rob Van
Dam; ECW World TV
Title; FTW World
Championship

"Suicidal, homicidal, genocidal," are just a few of the adjectives that have been used to describe the wildest man in the sport today, Sabu. While many may consider Mankind/Cactus Jack as the "king" of hardcore wrestling, the real "king" of this genre has to be Sabu. Others may take credit, but Sabu was the first to incorporate the use of tables into his bouts. His incredible series of fights with hardcore legend Terry Funk in 1993 established Sabu as the wildest wrestler of this decade.

Sabu learned the basics of the sport from his legendary uncle, the original Sheik. In the 1960s and 1970s, there was nobody wilder or crazier, both inside and outside the ring, than the Sheik. With the Sheik as his mentor and guide, it is only natural that Sabu's style evolved in much the same way.

There are many similarities between his style and that of the Sheik, but Sabu has incorporated his own, personal touch.

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SABU

Rob Van Dam

6'
237 lbs.
Battle Creek, Mich.

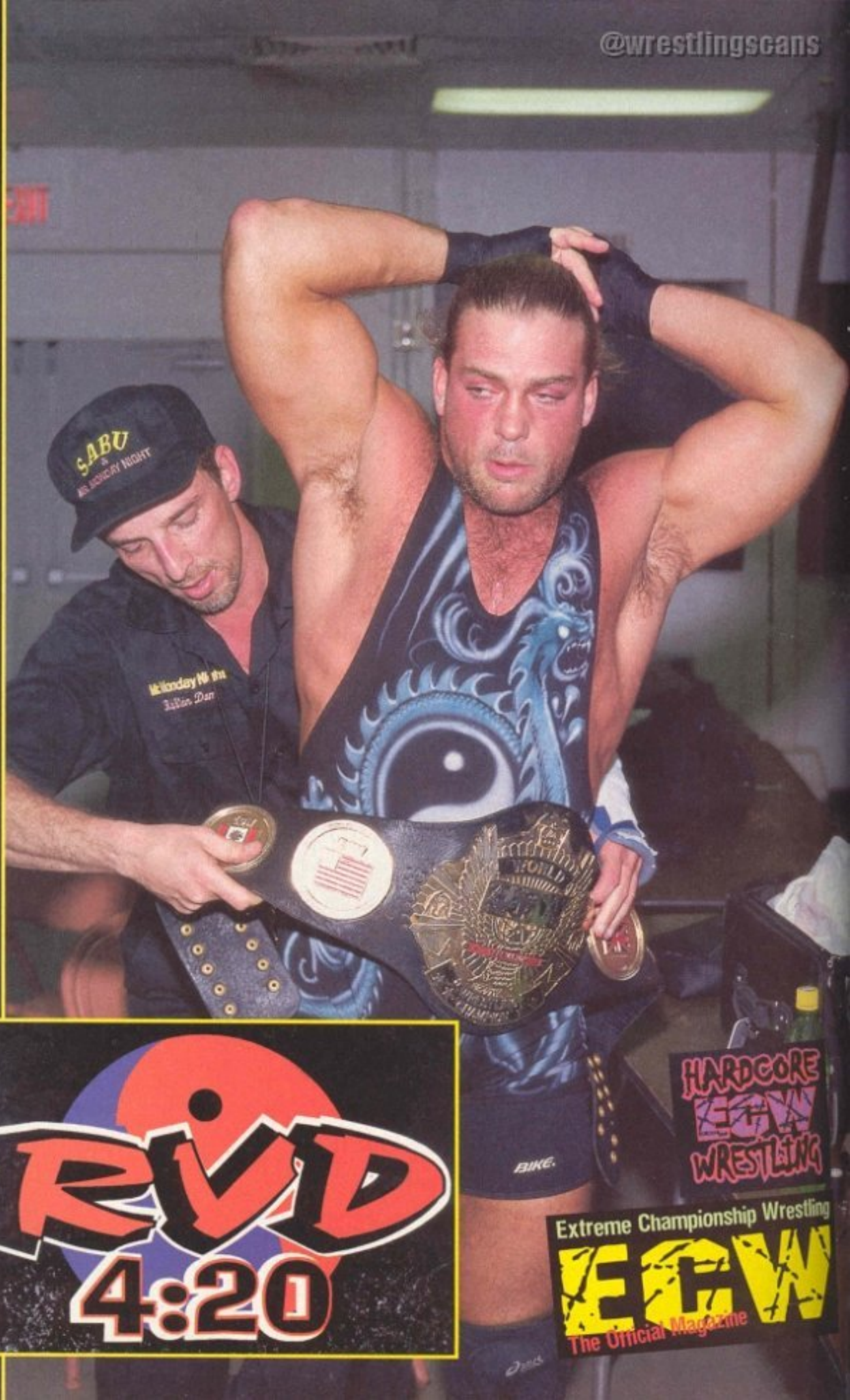
Nickname:

Mr. Monday Night

Titles Held:

ECW World TV Championship; ECW World Tag Team Championship with Sabu

ECW fanatics refer to Rob Van Dam as the "whole F'n show," and for good reason. While Sabu and others try to maim their opponents, Van Dam will not only maim, but also wrestle circles around his competition. He is adept at both pure mat tactics as well as high-flying, death-defying maneuvers. And he can also brawl with the best of them. While Sabu may take more risks both inside the ring and out, Van Dam is more calculated. He will think first, plan his next move and then act on it very quickly. This could be the main reason why Van Dam has not suffered nearly as many ring injuries in his career as Sabu.



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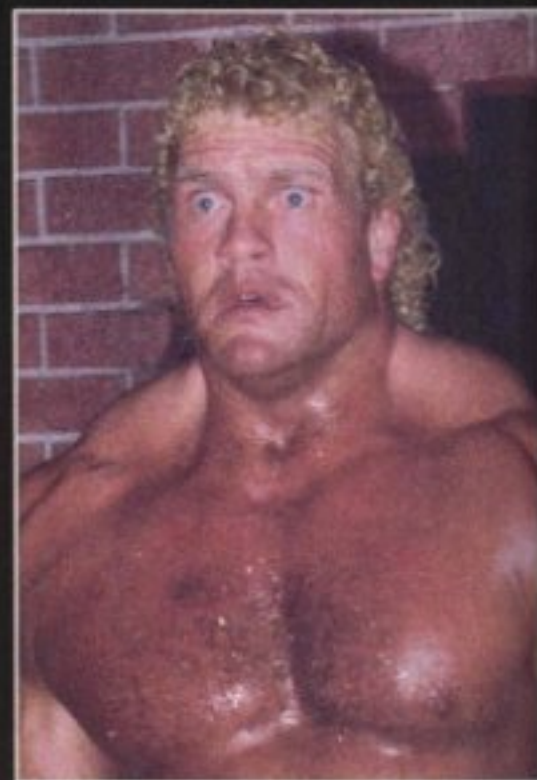
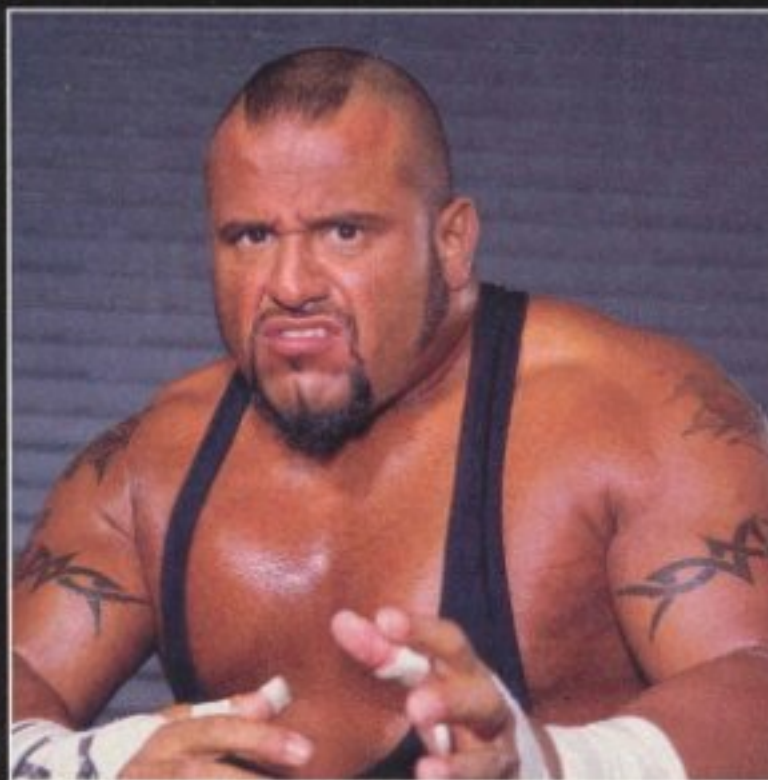


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Tommy Dreamer

6'3"

265 lbs.

Yonkers, N.Y.

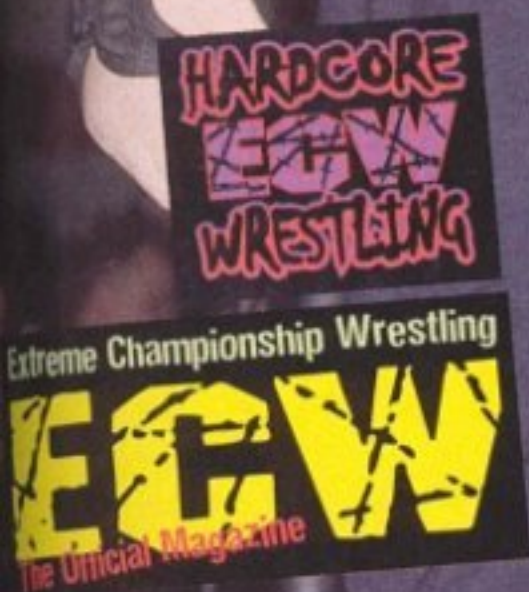
Nickname:

"The Innovator of Violence"

Titles Held:

ECW Eastern Tag Team Title

Tommy Dreamer is an ECW original. He has been with the company since Paul Heyman's first TV taping on October 1, 1993. In November of 1993, Dreamer won his only ECW title when he and Johnny Gunn defeated Tony Stetson and Johnny Hot Body to capture the Eastern Tag Team Title. Yes, that's right. It's been six years between titles for Dreamer, but he still goes out there day after day, week after week and defends the honor of ECW against all comers. For Tommy Dreamer, titles don't mean everything. He doesn't need a belt around his waist or over his shoulder to prove that he is hardcore. Just watching him in action shows that Tommy Dreamer is as hardcore as they come in ECW.



Chris Candido

5'8"
226 lbs.
Carteret, N.J.

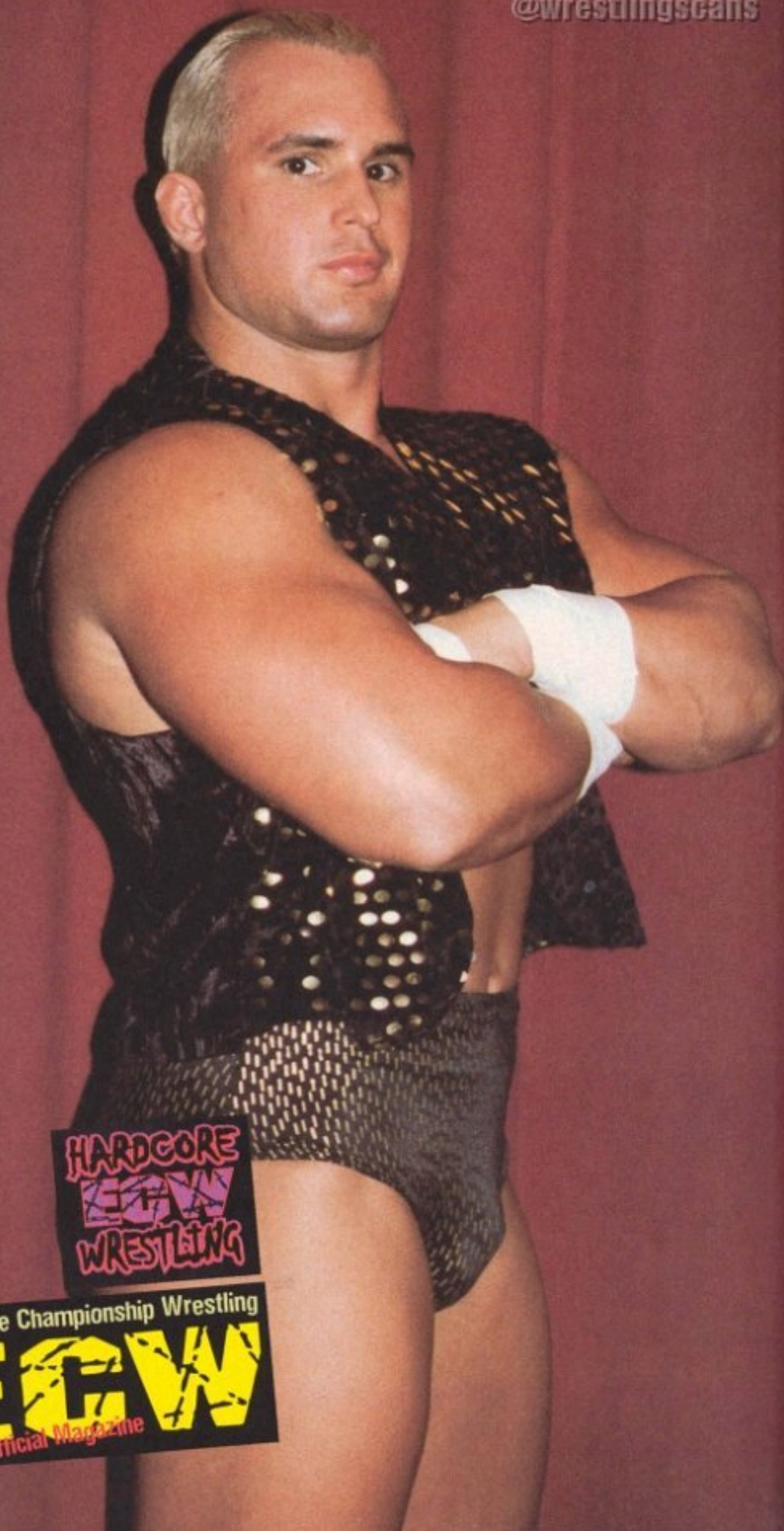
Titles Held: ECW World Tag Team Title With Lance Storm; WWF Tag Team Title (as Zip) with Tom Prichard (as Zap), managed by Sunny; NWA World Heavyweight Title

A former member of the "Triple Threat" with Shane Douglas and Bam Bam Bigelow, Candido is now at odds with his former friend Shane Douglas.

For most of 1998, Candido and Lance Storm held the ECW tag team title, but they never really got along during their time together. When Candido brought Tammy Sytch around, she upset the chemistry that Candido and Storm had built up as a team. To counteract Tammy's constant interference, Storm recruited his own valet, Tammy Lynn Bytch, the former Dawn Marie. This began a war between the two ladies that has yet to be resolved. Candido and Storm, meanwhile, lost the tag team title to Sabu and Van Dam in a wild bout in Philadelphia.

At the present time, Candido is taking some time away from ECW to regroup and contemplate his next move.

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Justin Credible

5'11"

225 lbs.

Waterbury, Conn.

AKA: PJ Walker; Aldo Montoya

Finishing Move:

Just Incredible Pile Driver

Last year was tremendous for Justin Credible. Finally the man who was once known as Aldo Montoya lived up to the hype that was predicted for him. Upon arriving in ECW, Justin became hardcore, and along the way acquired a posse that included Jason, Nicole Bass and most recently Jazzmine. Equipped with his new attitude and trusty kendo stick, Justin quickly positioned himself near the top of the ECW empire in 1998. At present, Justin is in the middle of a war with Tommy Dreamer and Lance Storm and they have had an incredible series of three-way matches in the process.

Not Just The COOLEST,
Not Just The BEST,
JUSTIN
CREDIBLE

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New Jack

6'
225 lbs.
Atlanta, Ga.

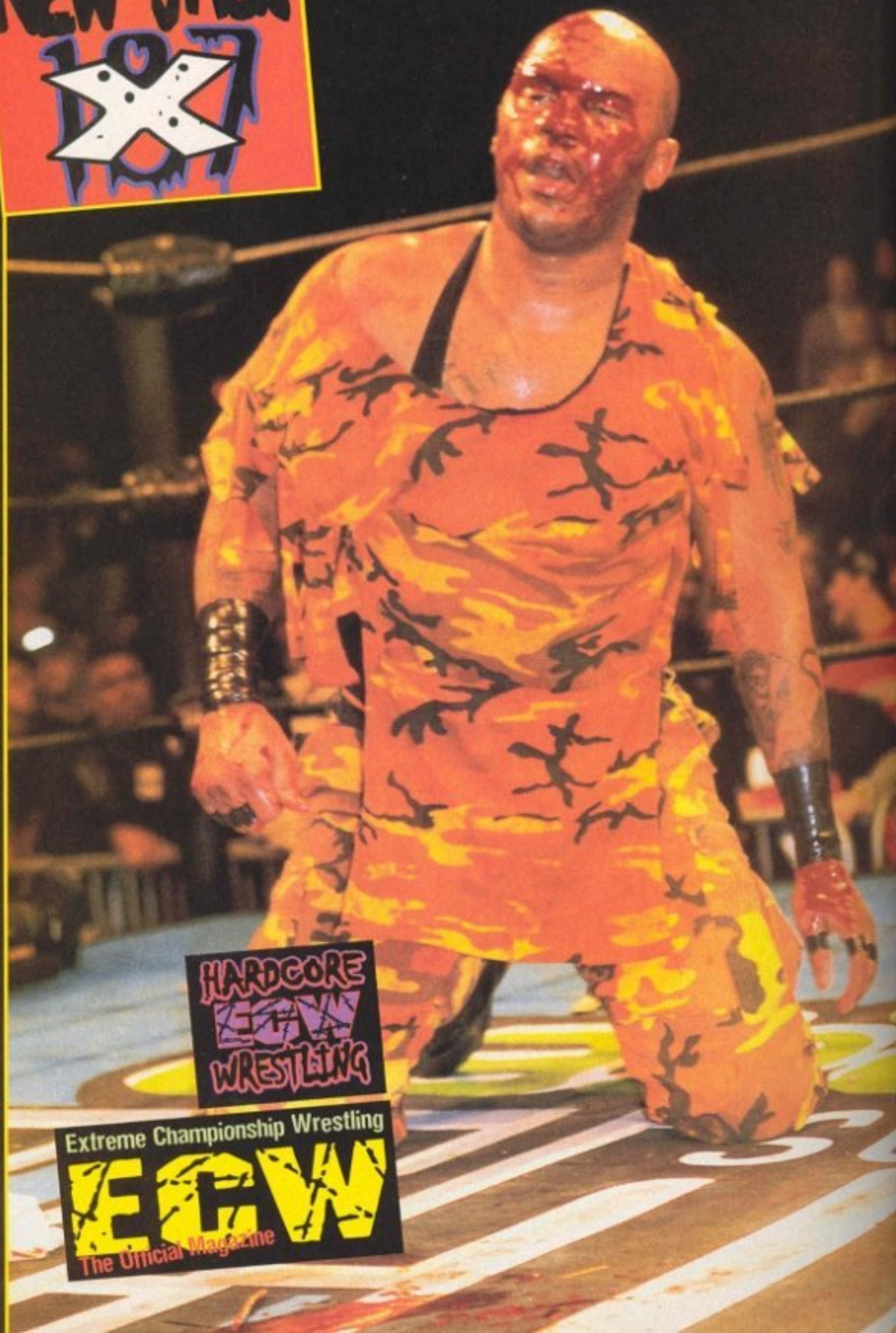
Titles Held:

ECW World Tag Team
Title with Mustafa and
Kronus

Out of all of the crazies that inhabit the ECW locker room, New Jack is by far the craziest. Not known for his scientific tactics, New Jack survives on his wild antics. A normal New Jack appearance will include a garbage pail filled with utensils to use on his poor, unsuspecting opponents. New Jack has been known to jump from balconies or leap from a stage if that's what it takes to get at the opposition.

New Jack originally arrived in ECW with his long time partner Mustafa but after winning the tag team title on two separate occasions, "The Gangstas" as they were affectionately known, went their separate ways. New Jack, however, continued to wrestle in ECW and cause mayhem every night.

New Jack's No. 1 priority is getting revenge on his former partner, Mustafa, who made a surprise return to ECW at the behest of the Dudleys in February 1999, and promptly turned on his former partner.



Kronus

6'4"

250 lbs.

Boston, Mass.

Titles Held:

ECW World Tag Team
Title with Perry Saturn
and New Jack

Big, tough, rugged John Kronus has seemed a little out of place ever since his partner, Perry Saturn, left for WCW. Kronus is still a very capable wrestler but he has yet to establish himself as a singles' competitor. In the ring, the 6'4" Kronus can do a complete somersault flip off of the top rope as well as diving planchas with the ease of a light heavyweight. Although Kronus has the skills, he nonetheless desperately needs someone to give him direction and guidance, if he ever expects to make it to the upper echelon of the ECW.



Axl Rotten

6'2"

285 lbs.

London, England

Known For:

Barbed Wire Bat

Axl Rotten, who originally hails from London, England, learned to fight on the mean streets of Philadelphia. When he first arrived in ECW, Axl teamed with his brother, Ian. The Brothers Rotten, however, never really made a name for themselves in ECW until their violent break up. To settle matter, the two brothers fought in a barbed wire baseball bat match. This match was as bloody as any ever waged in ECW rings and when it was finally over, it firmly established Axl as hardcore.

In recent months Axl has been teaming with another crazy man, Balls Mahoney. In Balls, Axl seems to have found the perfect partner to continue his all-out assault on the wrestling scene.



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Balls Mahoney

6'2"

365 lbs.

Carteret, N.J.

Titles Held:

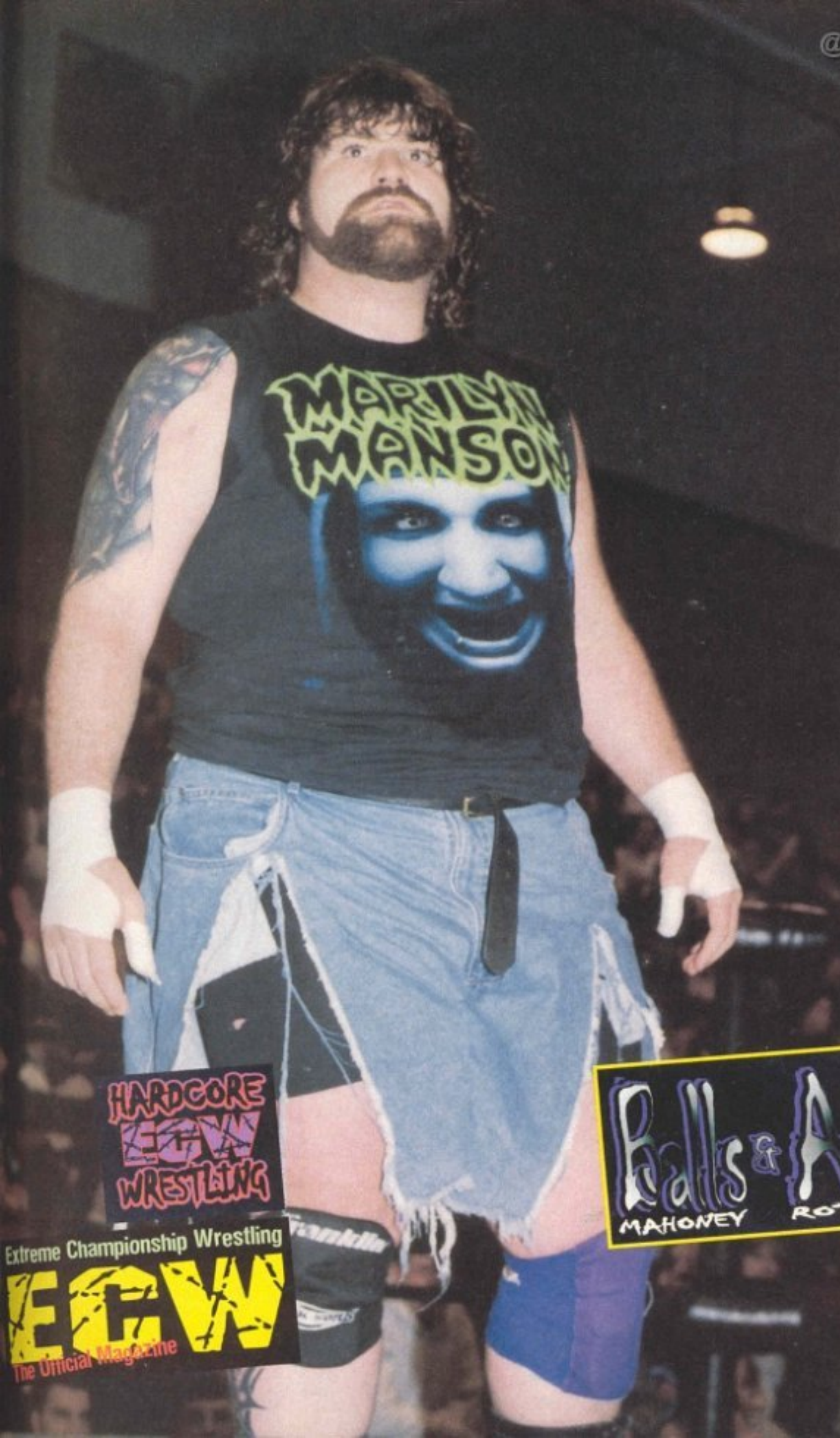
ECW World Tag Team

Title with Masato

Tanaka

Balls Mahoney is a true brawler whose favorite move is hitting his opponent over the head with his monogrammed chair. If he were schooled in wrestling moves, you would never know it, because Balls rarely, if ever, applies a conventional hold or employs a wrestling move. His modus operandi is to batter his opponent into submission with anything and everything that he can get his hands on.

In the past several months, Balls has found an ally in Axl Rotten, another wild man who delights in causing pain. Together these two lunatics are planning on winning the ECW tag team title currently held by Sabu and Van Dam.



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Balls & Axl
MAHONEY ROTTEN

D-Von Dudley

6'1"

260 lbs.

Dudleyville

Favorite Move:

Triple D: Dudley

Death Drop

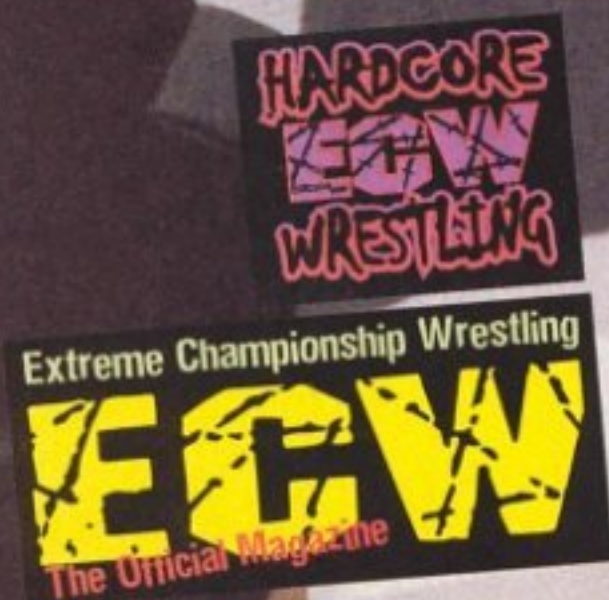
Titles Held:

ECW World Tag Team

Title with Bubba Ray

D-Von Dudley, from the south side of Dudleyville, is the Dudley with the best wrestling skills. While the other Dudleys have to outbrawl their opponents to come up with a victory, D-Von could outwrestle them, if he wanted too. However, like his brothers in crime, D-Von would rather brawl his way to the top, than wrestle his way there.

After leaving Dudleyville, D-Von trained and learned the basics of the sport at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, N.Y. Watching him in action, it's obvious that he learned his lessons well. Currently D-Von, along with his brothers Buh Buh Ray and Big Dick, are hot on the trail of the ECW tag team title.



Spike Dudley

5'5"

155 lbs.

Dudleyville

The "runt" of the Dudley clan, Spike was kicked out of the family by his brothers and left to fend for himself. And despite his small stature, Spike has done quite well for himself in ECW.

Contrary to what some believe, Spike has scored quite a few upsets over his much larger ECW brethren, due in large part to his Dudley heritage. Being small in stature, Spike relies quite often on his flying tactics, as well as his never-say-die attitude. It is his fervent, machine-like precision that has enabled

Spike to survive in the rough and tough world of ECW. Spike's finishing maneuver, the Acid Drop, has led to victories over such superstars as Bam Bam Bigelow, the One-Man Gang, European Champion Ulf Herman, Big Dick Dudley, 911, King Mable and Mr. Hughes.

Spike's most recent conquest was over Lance Storm during a challenge match in the Elk's Lodge in Queens, N.Y.C. Taking Storm's challenge, Spike stormed to the ring in a rage and proceeded to knock out the Canadian in less than a minute. And for his victory, Spike even got to plant a kiss on the lips of Tammy Lynn Bytch, Storm's ever-present valet. Despite WCW's blatant attempt to market Rey Mysterio Jr., as the Giant Killer, it is yet another example of Eric Bischoff's attempt to duplicate ECW stars that don't sell out to his multi-billion dollar corporate wrestling organization.

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Super Nova

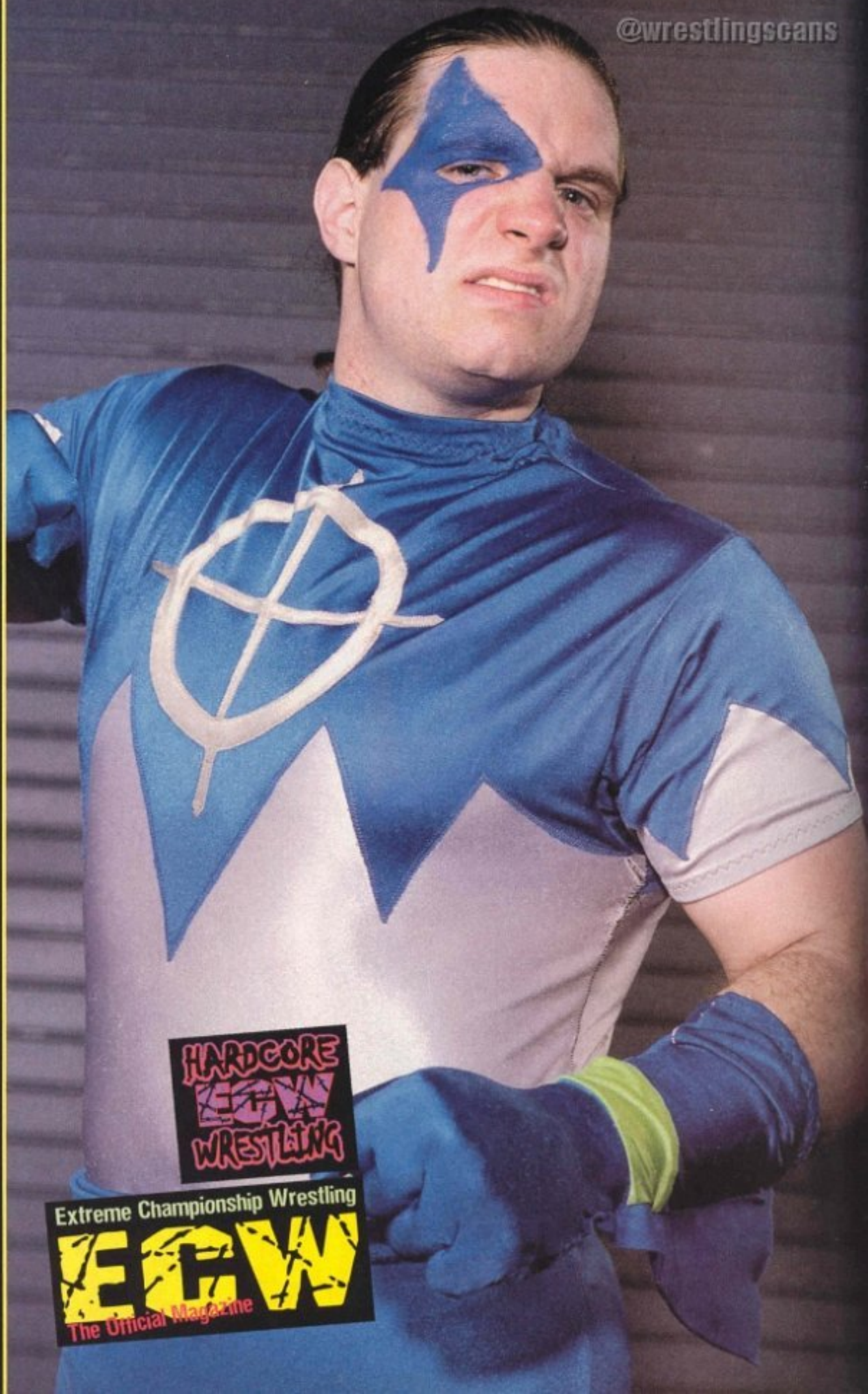
5'10"

215 lbs.

Bricktown, N.J.

Super Nova is the only member of the "BWO" or Blue World Order who is still appearing in ECW. He's a very capable wrestler who is adept at all ring styles. To his disadvantage in ECW, however, is that he has yet to incorporate brawling tactics into his game plan. If Super Nova were to simply wrestle the likes of Super Crazy, Tajiri or others who depend on high-flying tactics and in-ring maneuvers, he would do just fine. But in the wild and wacky world of ECW, where brawling is the norm, not the exception, Super Nova sometimes finds himself on the short end. Having lived through this, however, Nova now has plans to incorporate a few pages from Balls Mahoney's book into his own style and become more of an ECW competitor.

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Lance Storm

5'10"

228 lbs.

Calgary, Alberta,
Canada

Titles Held:

ECW Tag Team Title
with Chris Candido

Like his fellow Canadians Bret and Owen Hart and Chris Benoit, Lance Storm is another in the long line of great wrestlers that have come out of Calgary. With great wrestling knowledge,

Lance Storm has proved to be one of the most adept wrestlers in ECW.

Watching him in action, it's plain to see that he can do it all. He can perform mat wrestling maneuvers that dazzle the opposition, fly through the air and brawl with the best of them.

For most of 1998, Storm was locked in a bitter rivalry with his tag team partner, Chris Candido. When

Candido brought Tammy Sytch (AKA Sunny) around, Storm countered with a "Tammy" of his own,

Tammy Lynn Bytch. Soon the two women were also locked in a bitter feud.

Today, however, Candido is nearly out of the picture and Storm has been knocking heads with both Justin Credible and Tommy Dreamer. With his superb wrestling knowledge, however, the Canadian should emerge triumphant in this war.

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Tracey Smothers

6'1"

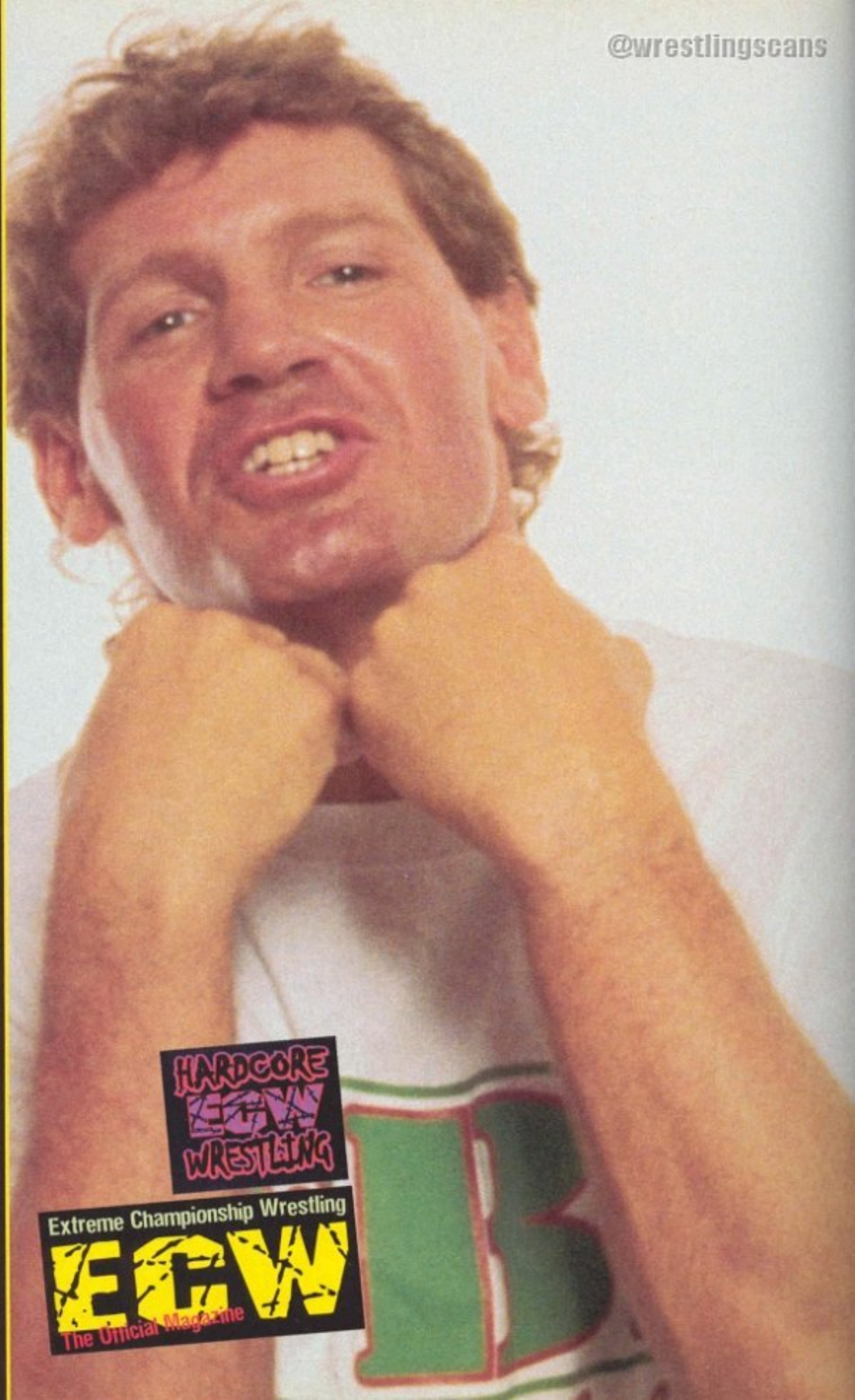
227 lbs.

Atlanta, Ga.

Titles Held:

ECW Tag Team Title
with Little Guido

Although his roots can't be traced back to Italy, the southern-born and bred Smothers proclaimed himself to be Italian when he joined ECW. As a member of the "FBI" or "Full Blooded Italians," Smothers has been very successful with his "Gomba," Little Guido, in his corner, and the "Godfather," Tommy Rich, patrolling outside. As a team, the FBI has been one of the most successful tag teams in ECW and quite possibly could be tag team champions again in the very near future.



Tommy Rich

6'

248 lbs.

Hendersonville, Tenn.

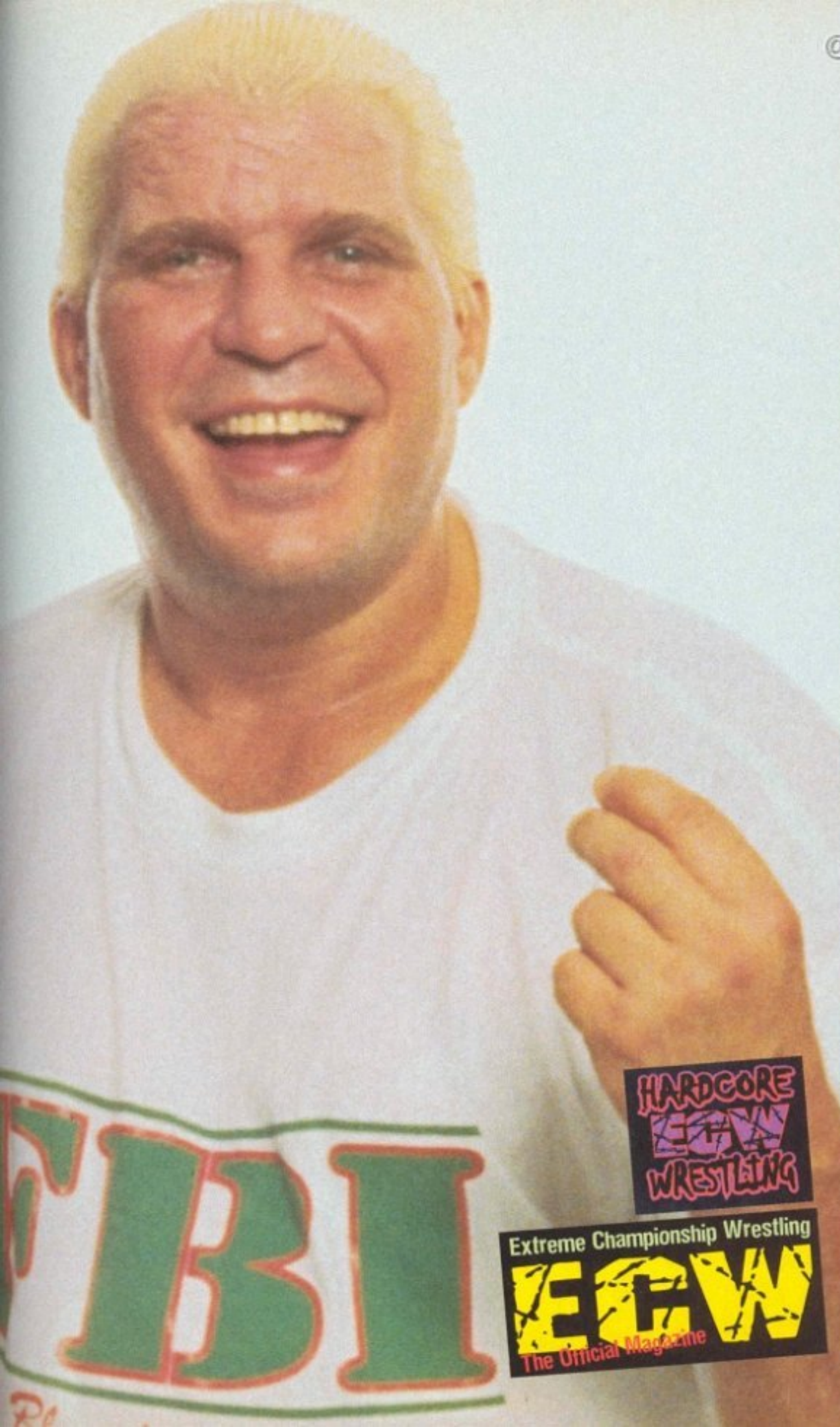
Titles Held:

NWA World
Heavyweight
Championship; Georgia
Fed. National
Heavyweight
Champion

Back in the days before he discovered his Italian heritage, Tommy Rich was one of the top wrestlers in the sport. On April 27,

1981, Tommy Rich achieved international fame when he defeated the legendary Harley Race to become the NWA World Heavyweight champion. For the remainder of the 1980s, Rich continued to be one of the top wrestlers in the profession but suddenly seemed to vanish from sight for a number of reasons.

Little more than two years ago, however, Rich suddenly reappeared in ECW. But this time, Rich discarded his southern roots and hooked up with two other men who claimed a new heritage, Tracy Smothers and Little Guido. Being the elder statesman, the others looked up to him for wisdom and guidance and christened him "The Don." With this, a new chapter in Tommy Rich's career had begun. As "The Don," Rich has been instrumental in making the FBI into one of the top teams in ECW.



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Little Guido

5'9"

198 lbs

Howard Beach, N.Y.

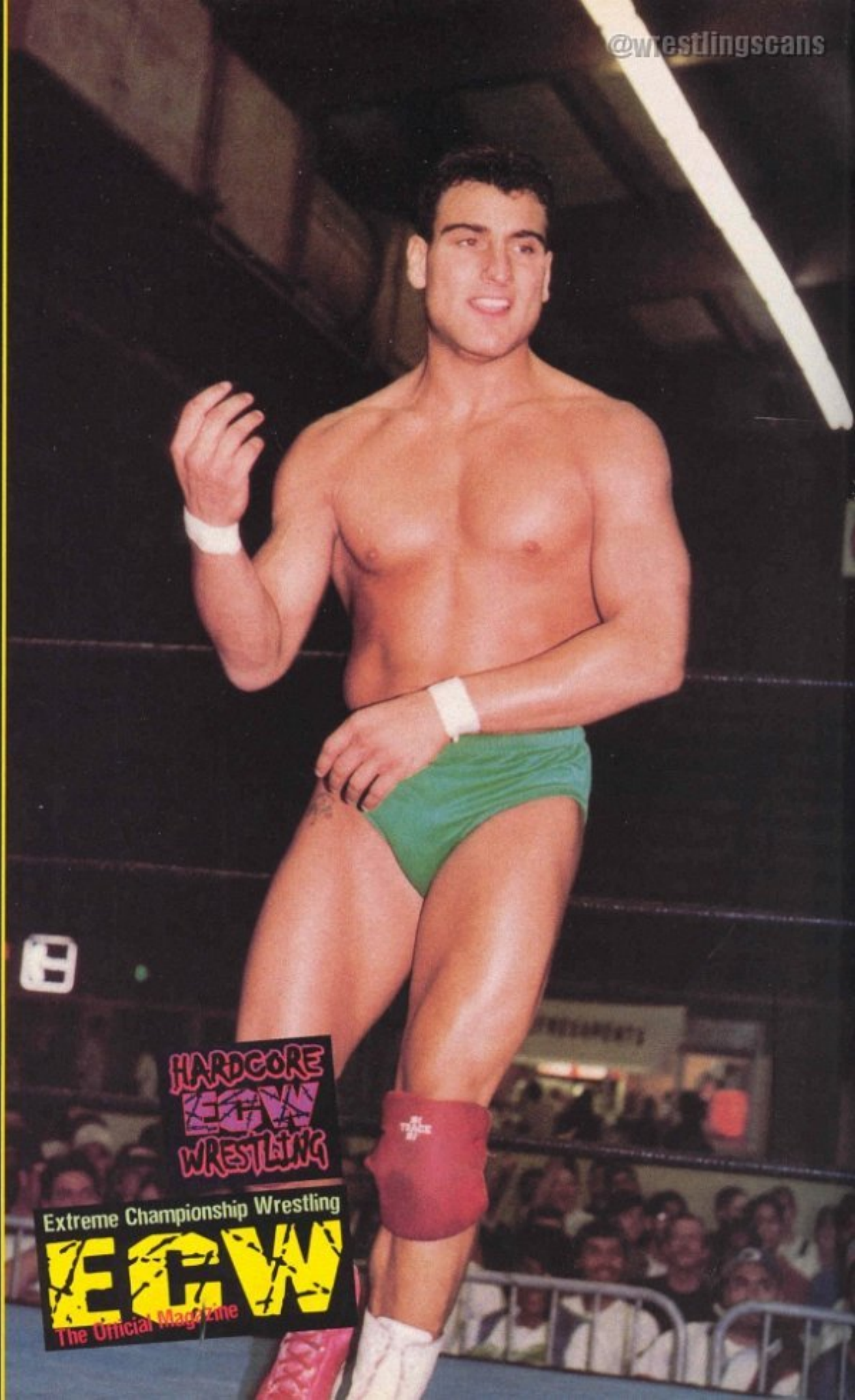
Titles Held:

ECW Tag Team
Champion

Little Guido was a founding member of the "FBI" or "Full Blooded Italians." His first partner in the "FBI" was J.T. Smith, who claimed to be from Sicily. After Guido and Smith had a falling out, Tracey Smothers and Tommy Rich joined the "FBI," and they have been a top team ever since.

Before joining ECW, Little Guido, who was then known as Damien Stone, wrestled on all of the independent cards throughout the Northeast. From there, he traveled to Japan where he competed in a group that specialized in the Ultimate Fighting style of combat. Returning to the states, Guido joined ECW and he's been wrestling there ever since.

The highlight of Little Guido's career came on Oct. 18, 1997, when the "FBI" defeated Kronus and New Jack to win the tag team title.



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Road Kill

5'11"

268 lbs

Lancaster, Penn.

Another recent graduate of the "House of Hardcore,"

Road Kill has been teaming with Danny Doring in his ECW appearances. Although the fans have gotten on Road Kill over his

Amish attire, the Pennsylvania native is determined to be the first man from his city to make it in the wrestling profession.

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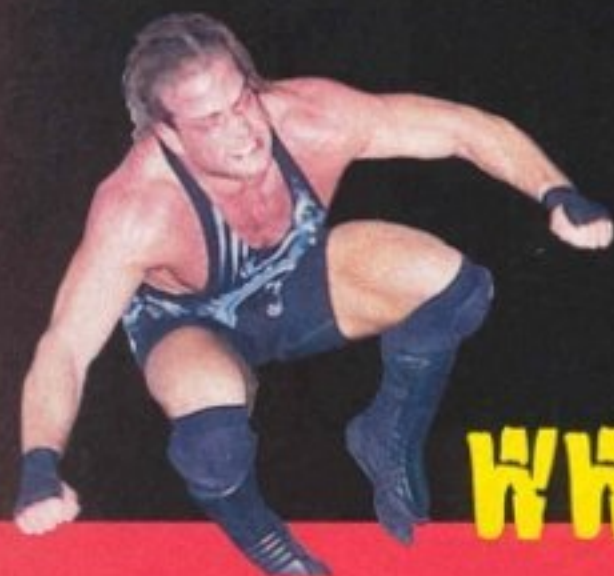
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L e t t e r s

to the Editor

Hello, my name is Big Vin and I love ECW!!! It is the best wrestling promotion in the world and for sure the most hardcore. I have been to the ECW Arena in Philadelphia several times and I must say that each time I go it gets better. I went to Living Dangerously in Asbury Park last year and am going again this year. Paul E. is a genius. He has made the best wrestling in the world. Every wrestler in this promotion rules, from Jerry Lynn to Shane Douglas to Rob Van Dam to Taz. There is no bad wrestler. Now with the addition of Sid, ECW kicks butt.

Big Vin (VINWPBL691@aol.com)

ECW,

Well it is about time the BEST FED gets its own magazine, and let me say it is something I have anticipated for a long, long time!!! ECW continues to prove that it is the best fed by giving us fans what we want, be it the matches you can't see anywhere else, hardcore action the other feds are afraid to show, wrestlers who push the boundaries farther than any other, and now the magazine that we all have wanted to see! Thank you for listening to the fans and I really look forward to this magazine going monthly...it could happen right?

Best of luck with all, keep up the good work!

Mike (kanemural3@aol.com)

Dear ECW,

I have been a huge fan for a while now and I want to congratulate you on how much you have accomplished. I guess you're proving the big guys wrong that say you are just bingo hall freaks! I just want to wish you best of luck and keep EXTREME!

A true Fan,

Ananda Gussin (angel67299@aol.com)

Aston, PA

P.S. One day I hope to be in ECW because you guys help me follow all my dreams

Wow you finally got a magazine. Well, I think it is about DAMN time. I mean, you have been around for years and I have been a fan since day one. I think your program is very entertaining and your live shows are the best I have ever seen. Thanx for all the years of blood, sweat, and tears. I am very happy about the blood.

Goat Cheese (frink15@hotmail.com)

Finally, a magazine dedicated to the hardest working company in the business! Now that the ECW is starting to spread out with its traveling schedule, when will the greatest show on earth make an appearance in the nation's capital? ECW does have a very large fan base in the Virginia, Maryland and D.C. areas, so what gives? We are tired of being subjected to the same old boring routines that the WCW and WWF bring around these parts. Please think about giving us a chance to experience the extreme. Thanks for listening

Geoff Hallan

Woodbridge, VA

Dear Ecw,

I think you are cool! You look more real then the other federations and you are cooler. from,

Brian, age 8 (zegler11@aol.com)

Finally, a wrestling magazine devoted to the greatest wrestling organization in the world, ECW. I have been a huge ECW fan for many years, and at the rate we're going, we will be recognized as the greatest federation today. What organization combines the hardest music, past and present, with the hardcore violence which keeps the fans coming back every night? Only one, EC F'N W!!! I'd like to thank H&S Media for giving ECW the chance to be heard nationwide through this magazine. I know it will be a huge success. I'd also like to thank the wrestlers of ECW, for giving us fans the best wrestling around every night out. Joey Styles is one of the best commentators you will ever hear on television, and he too is very loyal to the organization, thank you Joey. And especially Paul Heyman, nothing would happen without the very creative mind of Paul behind the scenes. Thanks to you Paul.

Sincerely,

Jesse Thomas (JThoma6951@aol.com)

West Chester, PA

I have been a loyal ECW fan for quite some-time now, I really enjoy seeing The Franchise and my 2 favorite ECW superstars – Tammy Lynn Sytch and Chris Candido – in action. I hope to see alot of them in the April issue of ECW Magazine and of course all the other upcoming ECW magazines. I love ECW because it reminds me of the old times – the way I remember wrestling when I was growing up. Even though I'm only 15, I have been watching wrestling for 11 years now. ECW has icons and role models you can't find anywhere else.

Sincerely Traci Ruyseveldt
(candidosytch@winningteam.com)

Hardcore ECW

I have been an ECW fan 3 1/2 years now. ECW puts out the best super stars and is the best hardcore wrestling this world has ever seen. You guys kick ass!!

Chris
(Luvrboy33@aol.com)

Washington

My name is Jose and I live in Norfolk, Va. I started watching ECW almost 4 years ago and have been a great fan of you guys every since. Unfortunately, they have taken ECW off of our stations here in the Hampton Roads area. It used to come on Saturday at either 5 or 7 p.m., they changed it around constantly. But within the past few months, they have taken it off completely. I have to compliment you guys for putting the show on your website, I am their watching it every week!!

Hardcore 4 Life,

Jose (stonecoldjn@hotmail.com)

To those of you interested:

I have been a loyal fan of ECW for about 7 months. The first time I saw ECW in my home of Streamwood, Ill., little did I know that I was stepping into the greatest wrestling program on the face of the earth. I love this show for what it is: a wrestling show. It doesn't try and dumb it down by saying "We are a soap opera," (Everyone already knows that) or doing stupid angles nobody likes. These wrestlers put on a show, and they do it well. I would just like to say to ECW, PLEASE come to Chicago this year. I am begging ya, you have a VERY large fan base here, I know it. I can't wait 'til you do, I will be at every show, with my friends, shouting "ECW, ECW, ECW!" Keep up the KICK ASS shows, I'll keep watchin'.

Karl Grzeszczak
Wrestling Enthusiast (nukeman14@aol.com)

To Whom It May Concern:

I just wanted to let you know that I love your federation. I think that is great how you have a staff of young, but immensely talented guys that go out every night to put on a show. Unlike the big guys, ECW always gives the fans what they want to see. I love watching you on pay-per-views and thank you for not putting one on every month. Instead, you have them spaced out so when one does come around we the fans can actually see quality matches and have something to look forward to. I got hooked by a friend a couple of years ago, and ever since, it has been my mission to get you recognition because ECW definitely deserves it. I am out in Oregon so I haven't been able to get to a live showing, but head out this way because the West loves ECW just as much as the East. Keep up the extreme work!

Jeff Walls (wall10662@students.sou.edu)

Ashland, OR

Hey,

Wow, I can't wait for the new ECW magazine! Not all of this other WCW/NWO and stupid WWF crap but the most extreme wrestling federation is coming out with a new magazine! Anyway, keep up the good work!

Tyler Burton

Naperville, Illinois

Dear Editor,

I live in the Philadelphia area and have been watching ECW since its early days at Eastern Championship Wrestling and want to say that ECW has come a long way since those days and I am proud to say that I was around and have seen ECW grow to what it is today. I would like to wish all involved continued success.

Chris Pierce

Ridley Park, PA

Tammy Lynn Sytch

Feel like taking
a dip with me?

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Breakin' through walls



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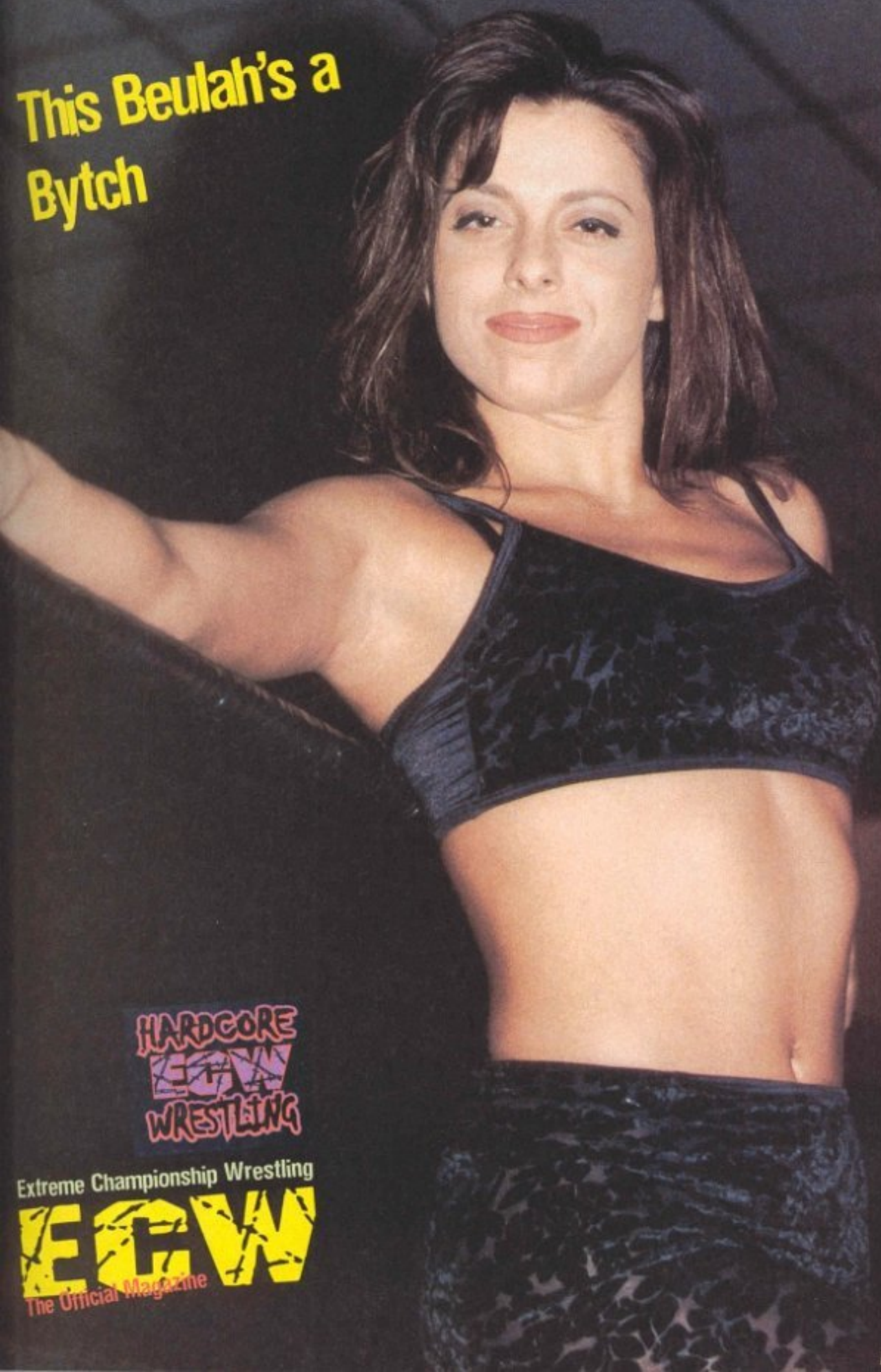
Come play my game



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This Beulah's a
Bytch



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Beulah was
never so
Bytchy!

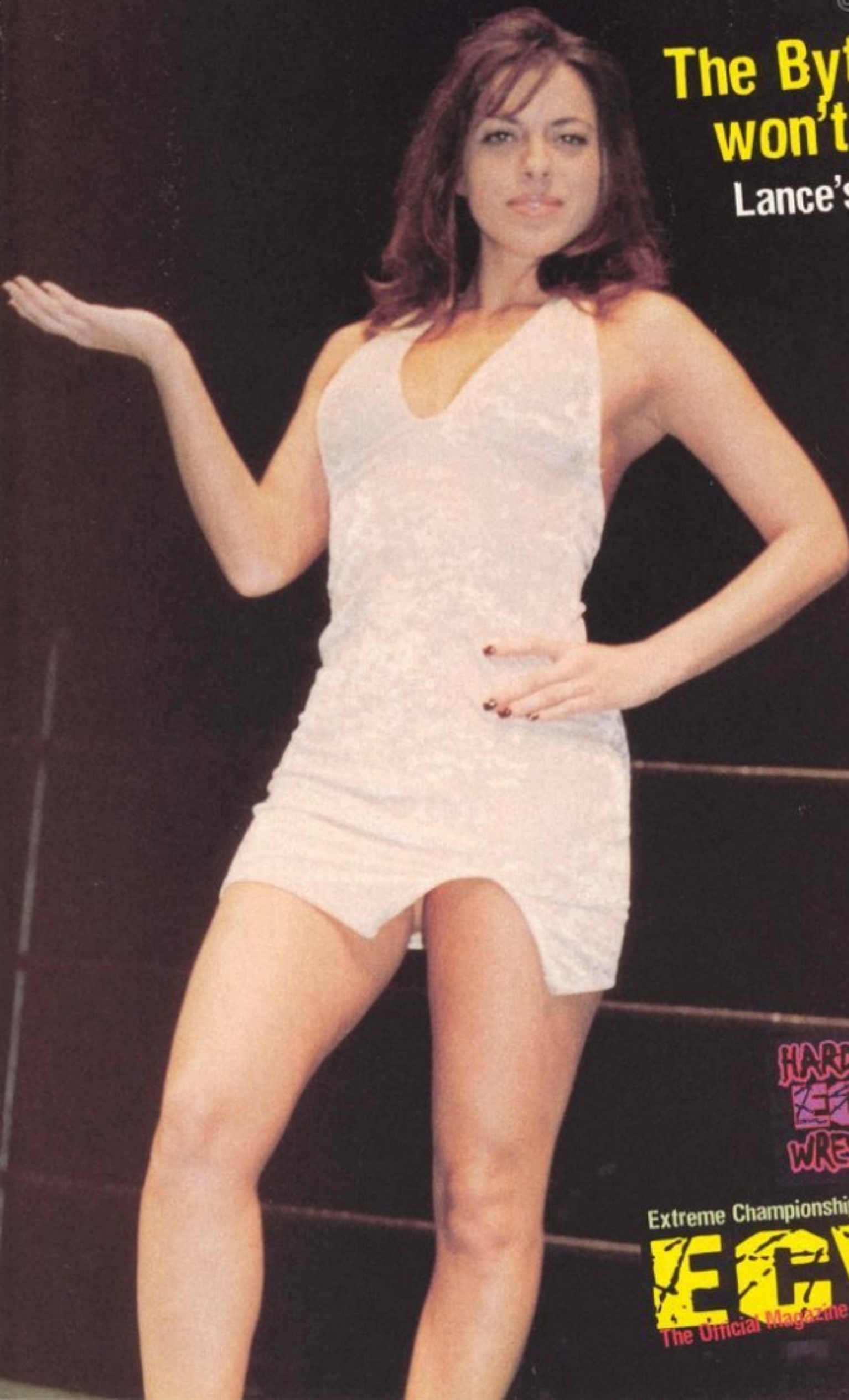


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The Bytch that won't Snytch

Lance's right hand
woman



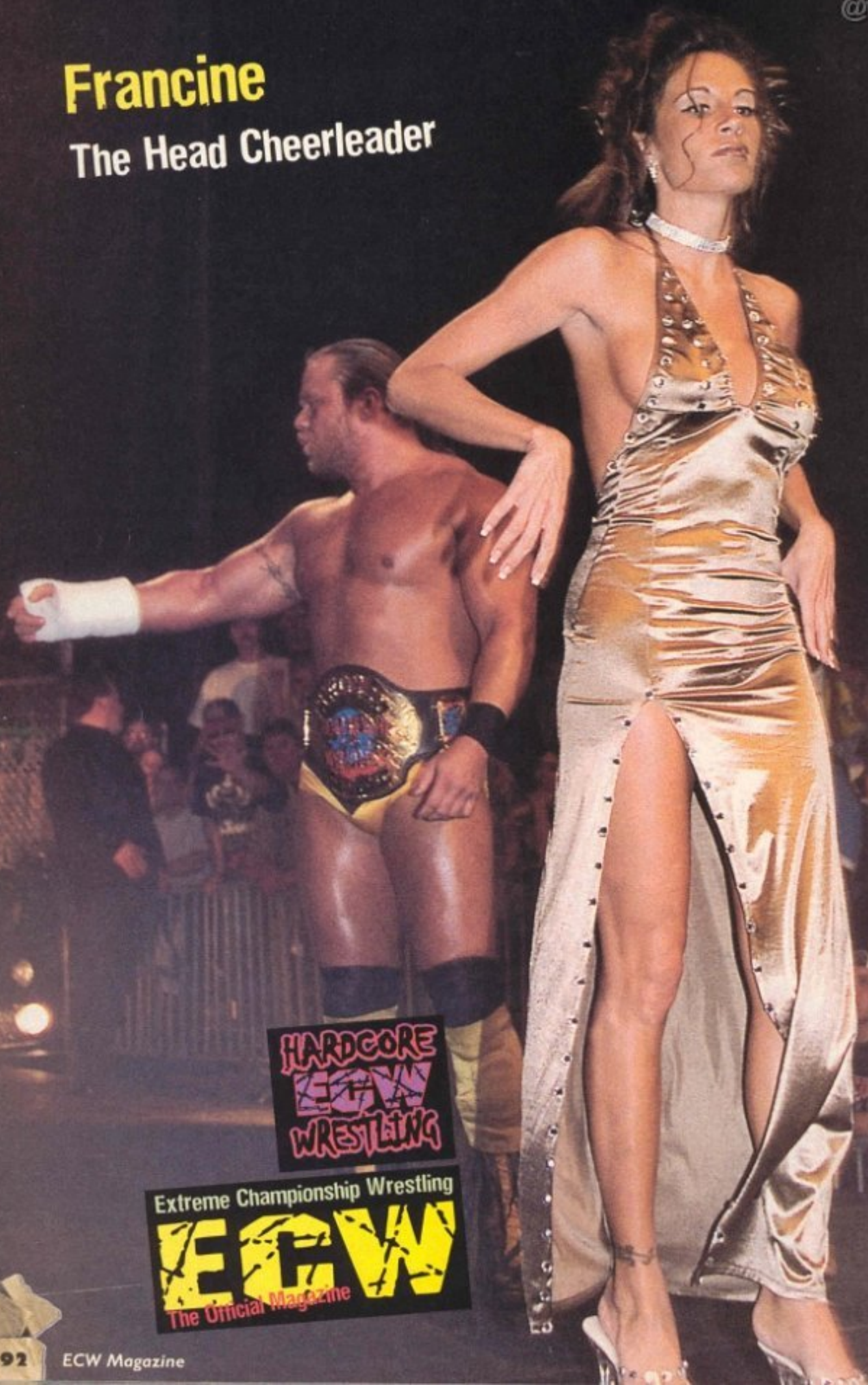
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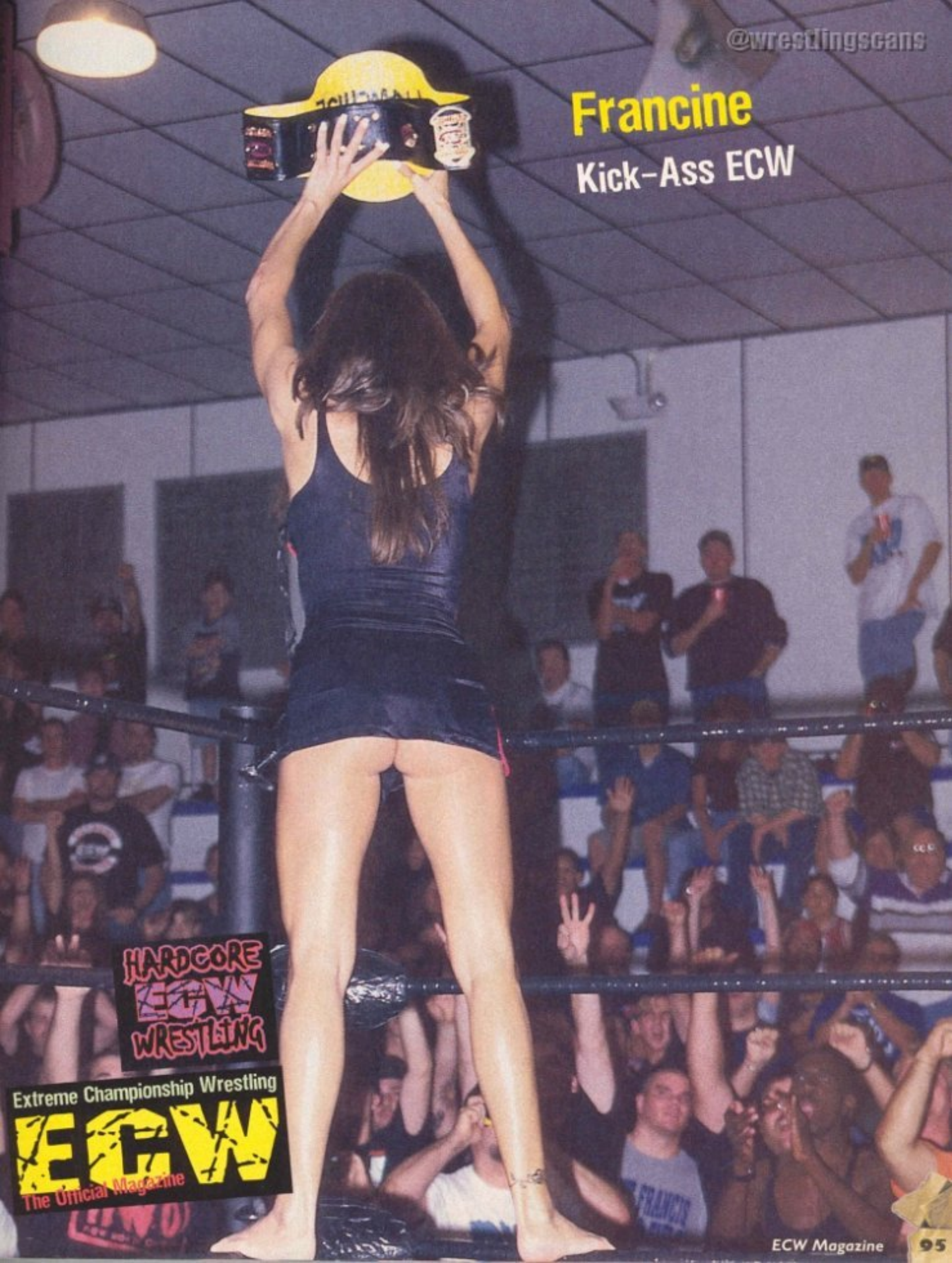


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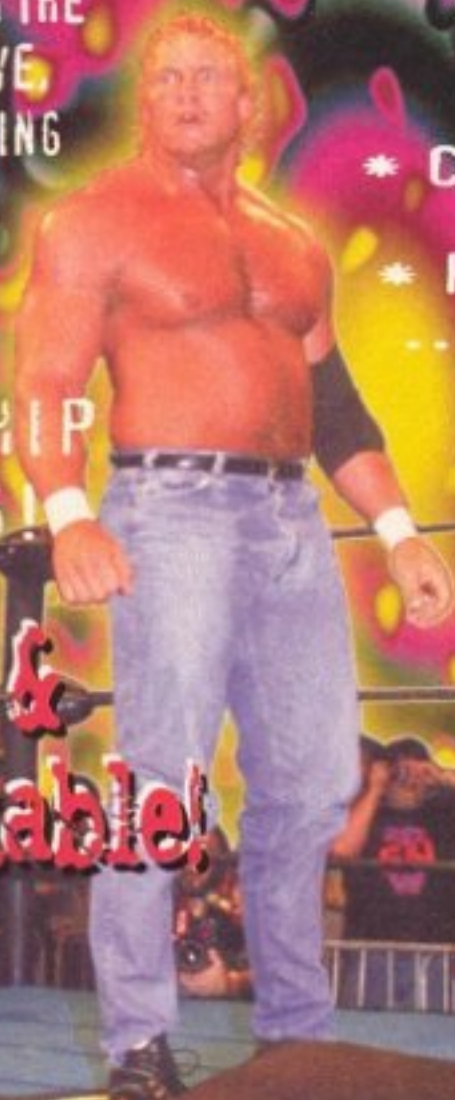
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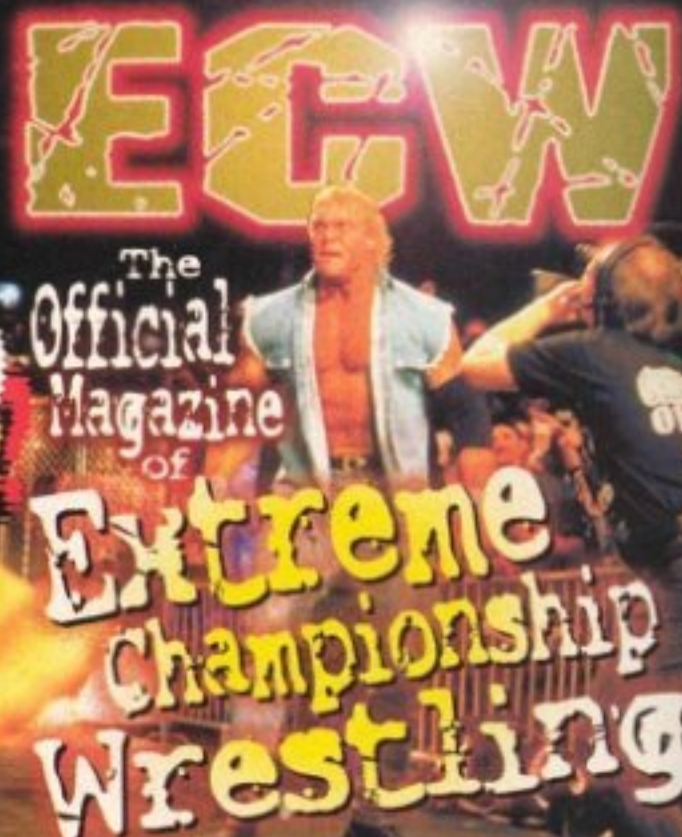
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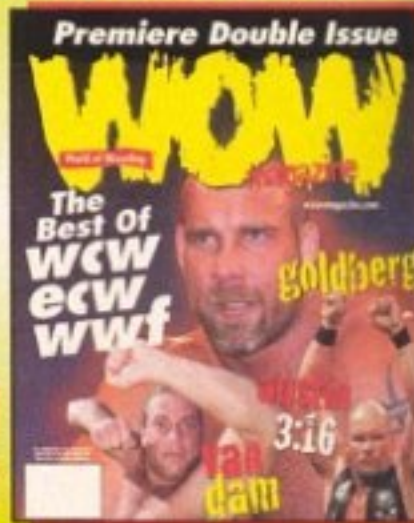


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Tammy Lynn Sytch

Give me a 3 count!



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@wrestlingscans

"Thanks for dropping in
and getting
hardcore with us.
Come back next issue."

Love,
Tammy Lynn Bytch
Lance Storm's personal Beulah

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